

# Monthly Media Monitor



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

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## A Time of Transition -- The Future Looks Bright!

It was thirteen years ago last month that this author (Fr. John Wykes, OMV), as the newly-designated Director of Communications for the U.S. Province, was surprised and amazed at how much the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, my brothers, were involved in the media.

I felt the need to tell everyone about what other Oblates were doing. Yes, I was doing more than my fair share — fundraising letters, the OMV Newsletters, videos, audio books, posters, and so on. But I

was more interested in what my brother Oblates were doing — writing books, studying communications in Rome, doing radio broadcasts in Brazil, making TV appearances in the USA, and publishing magazines in Nigeria.

With this idea in mind along with a certain love of alliteration, it took me only a few minutes to come up with the idea of the Monthly Media Monitor, and its snappy title (left is an image of the first issue).

It has been thirteen amazing years. Books, TV Series, magazines, podcasts, full-length movies, websites, Flash projects, radio programs, videos — it has been a thrill to report all these amazing achievements and to spread the word.

Now it is July of 2023. I am concluding a five-year assignment as International Director of Communications for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. This year I am also marking my thirtieth year of producing media content for our Congregation. It is time for me to move on and to hand things over to others. I am sure they will provide quality communication in the months and years to come.

As for the Monthly Media Monitor — this publication was first conceived at a time when smart phones were not ubiquitous, fewer people were on Facebook, and WhatsApp had existed for only about six

(continued on page 2)



The Monthly Media Monitor was 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) from June 2010 to July 2023. It was not a monthly summary of OMV life in general. Instead, it was 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 celebrated the works of this important media apostolate.

— Fr. John Wykes, OMV, former Director of Communications, OMV General House, Rome

months. Times have changed since then. Now it is easier than even before to tell others about the latest book, the newest video, and the most popular podcast.

It makes sense, at this point of transition, to conclude the publication I began some thirteen years ago. The Monthly Media Monitor will end today and my own time as Director of Communications (several years in the USA and five years in Rome) will end as well. But media work by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary will continue and those of my brothers who specialize in communications will continue to spread the Good News of God's love and mercy.

The last thirteen years of the Monthly Media Monitor will remain in our archives (and on-line at [oblato.org](http://oblato.org)) — now a wonderful testament of the work done by so many Oblates of the Virgin Mary throughout the years.

As for myself, I doubt that my media ministry will end completely. It will take on a different form. Even as I get older, I am still quite active and hope to remain so for a number of years to come.

Wishing you all of God's blessings as you follow your own faith journey.



The month of March was quite unforgettable for our Congregation — especially for our OMs from Nigeria. March was a month of a hope-filled and joyful encounter in Rome. It was also a month during which a young Nigerian OM moved from his final journey from his life to the next.

