

VENERABLE BRUNO GUILD

PROMOTING BRUNO LANTERI'S CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2018

OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

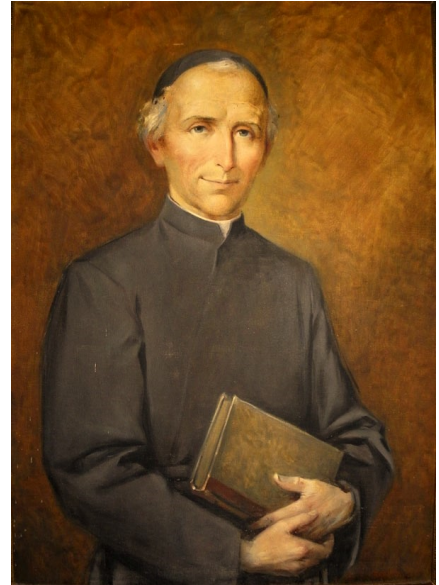


Welcome to our first issue!

This newsletter will inform our friends, benefactors, and prayer partners of our activities as we promote Venerable Bruno's cause for canonization and share new prayer requests received through the website for Venerable Bruno (brunolanteri.org).

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary are asking for your assistance in promoting the cause for their founder's canonization. Pio Bruno Lanteri's cause was opened almost 90 years ago [1930], and he was declared venerable in 1965, over 50 years ago. The OMV fathers and brothers have continued to carry out Ven. Bruno's work, leading Ignatian retreats and offering the Spiritual Exercises, sacraments, formation for priests and laity, and spiritual direction around the world. Recently, his biography was updated by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, OMV, under the title *Begin Again* (2013). In July 2017, Dr. Cabrini Pak joined our team to help organize our efforts and work to tell Ven. Bruno's story. At the same time, she will tell the story of his spiritual sons to the modern world.

We are excited to make Ven. Bruno more widely known, as we believe his message has much to offer in this world. Each issue will include a spotlight on what some OMV fathers and brothers are doing to introduce their founder to people in the world. In this issue, Fr. Tom Cannon, OMV explains how he developed a meditation handout with Ven. Bruno's image and words. If you would like to join our guild's efforts or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at lanterians@omvusa.org. To learn more about Venerable Bruno, go to www.omvusa.org and click on the "Bruno Lanteri" link in the upper right corner.



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Gentle Mercy: A Lanterian Approach

By Fr. Tom Cannon, OMV

Evaluating and renewing our images of God are instrumental in growing in friendship with our Father, and Jesus, who shows us the Father. By having a penitent read and pray with the handout (on the right) after a good confession or spiritual direction, I hope it invokes those same truths of God's mercy that lifted my spirit years ago, as those words scrolled across the very same picture: you are a beloved child of the Father. When we forget or walk away like the prodigal Son, but then come back, the Father runs to us and hugs us, joyous as the woman who finds the lost coin (Lk 15). We only need to get right back up and with gratitude, trusting in this patient and unwavering love of our Heavenly Father, say: "Nunc Coepi" – "Now I begin."

The first time I saw these words of Ven. Bruno Lanteri, I was considering the priesthood. After speaking with Oblates in Denver, I looked at the OMV website, which was very rustic. This picture (next page) of Ven. Bruno next to St Peter's Basilica in Rome alongside Mary holding Jesus, drew me in a very ethereal sense, while reading His words of mercy that scrolled over the top of the picture. I immediately felt I met an old friend and knew that my call was to join the Oblates. We can see the message of God's mercy in this picture, through Mary offering us Jesus, with fidelity to the Church and all the Church offers for our salvation.

If I shall fall, even were it a thousand times, I will not lose courage, I will not be troubled, but always I will say immediately with peace, *Nunc Coepi* ('Now I begin').

Ven. Bruno Lanteri

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in *Spe Salvi* uses the terms "lesser" and "greater" hopes. The great hope of Christians is life with God in the future, a hope that brings this future life to bear on present actions. "Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness" (*Spe Salvi*, No. 2). Without this great hope, Paul reminds the Ephesians they were in a dark world, facing a dark future as an epitaph of the period states: "*In nihil ab nihilo quam cito recidimus*, (How quickly we fall back from nothing to

nothing)" (*Spe Salvi*, No. 2). Without hope in God we quickly fall into despair and darkness.

During my time as a seminarian, I read the spiritual writings of Ven. Bruno Lanteri and internalized this message of great mercy. During my priesthood, I began to use these words in spiritual direction and confession, and then created a prayer card with the picture. I wanted to provide something concrete that would give people great hope. As the bad spirit uses past wounds and misconceptions to lure us into false images of the Father. Satan wants to cast us into the darkness and the anti-theological vice of despair and separate us from our Father. Ven. Fr. Lanteri writes, "Through joyfulness one avoids sins and easily triumphs over temptation. It is characteristic of temptations to begin to instill despondency and sadness. And in these troubled waters the devil begins to fish. The joyful man has great regard for and always enjoys the spiritual goods he hopes for and possesses" (*The Spiritual Writings of Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri*, pg. 93).

A Meditation Handout

I will be careful not to form a human concept of God as One Who gets tired and aggravated at my weakness, instability and forgetfulness, taking revenge on me by removing necessary graces and help. These foolish ideas come from our ignorance. We wrong God when we measure him by our own limitations. I will always attribute to him his due, especially his most esteemed attributes: being Good, Merciful, full of Compassion, a loving Father who knows our weaknesses, who tolerates and forgives us. I will be convinced that discouragement is the greatest obstacle in the way of salvation.

I will never give in to discouragement, no matter what fault I fall into. Convinced that I will fall often, I will immediately ask forgiveness of God and will always try to correct myself. I will recognize my misery, but with equal peace of spirit I will promise God to amend my life. If I shall fall, even were it one thousand times, I will not lose courage. I will not be troubled but always will say immediately and with peace, "NUNC COEPI" ("Now I Begin").



Father Tom Cannon, OMV, is a spiritual director at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He earned his MA in Theology from St. John Seminary in Boston, his MBA at the University of Colorado, Denver, and his BS in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

New prayer requests & testimonials

Illinois: Through the intercession of Ven. Bruno Lanteri, may God send his healing graces to cousin DP, young father of 2, who just found out he has Stage 4 liver cancer. We need a miracle.

Texas: Please pray that SN will be free from his addiction to Meth and all drugs and alcohol and that he will be able to resist his urges so he can be the man God wants him to be. Please pray that he will be free from the demons of addiction.

Location unknown: I just wanted to sincerely thank you and your Oblates for your prayers for my daughter, MC. She recently underwent a very difficult eye surgery with fantastic results. She has regained her vision in her left eye. The doctors were quite amazed with the results as the eye had lots of scar tissue and a cataract to contend with. Many thanks for your efficacious prayers and for requesting Ven. Bruno intercession!! We are hoping that we will find that her uveitis is in remission over the next year.

Philippines: I went to Our Lady of Lourdes France with my elder sister and my husband last week of Feb 2017. We heard mass, had a confession, pray the rosary and had station of the cross. On the last day of our pilgrimage we dropped our petitions in the box and I still remember what I wrote and prayed on my priority list was first the early beatification of Venerable Father Bruno Lanteri, second, through the intercession of Venerable Father Bruno Lanteri the healing of KR who had a Pulmonary Hypertension and the only cure was lung transplant. On the first week of March 2017 I was able to visit St Peter Basilica in Rome for 4 days and heard mass 3 times in different chapels and prayed again my prayers so many times silently and meditating the chaplet of divine mercy and holy rosary. On the first day in Rome I tried to ask the address of OMV Chapel in Rome because I plan to hear mass there on Sunday. The following morning I got a message from my sister in law in New Jersey USA asking our prayers for a successful bilateral lung transplant operation of her daughter in law KR. I offered my prayers to God thru the intercession of Venerable Father Bruno Lanteri to answer all our prayers especially the health condition of KR. On the third week of March 2017 we had our Holy Land pilgrimage and I prayed so hard to God that he will answer all our prayers. After our pilgrimage back to Cambridge where we had our 2 months family visit I received a call from my sister in law that K was already discharged from the hospital and recuperating in their home. The sequence of events happened was a miracle for K's speedy recovery and also God's mercy on me.

Massachusetts: My prayer was answered. I had been out of work for 6 months and was waiting to hear of a new placement at the hospital but time was passing and this had never happened. I prayed to Ven. Lanteri and received my placement within minutes. My prayer card came from St Francis Chapel in Boston, located in the Prudential Center.

Ven. Bruno Lanteri's page now directly linked



There is now a direct link to Ven. Bruno's page from the omvusa.org splash page. Thanks to Chris Kelley for making that happen! Please let friends and prayer requesters know that they can go directly to Ven. Bruno's page from omvusa.org. Previously, users reported having trouble finding the link to his web page because it was under a secondary menu. Now petitioners and other interested users can click on his name in the main OMV USA page, which will take them to Bruno Lanteri's website.

VENERABLE BRUNO GUILD: PROMOTING BRUNO LANTERI'S CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

Want to help the OMV promote the cause for canonization of their founder? We have started a guild with the help of Dr. Cabrini Pak, who is coordinating our national effort. Guild members can do as much or as little as they wish, according to their needs. If you would like to know more, please contact Dr. Pak at lanterians@omvusa.org.



Follow OMVUSA on social media! We are on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.
www.omvusa.org

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This image of Mary can be found in the OMV-Denver rectory. Created by Catherine Hubka.

