

# VENERABLE BRUNO GUILD

PROMOTING BRUNO LANTERI'S CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

Volume 1, Issue 3

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OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

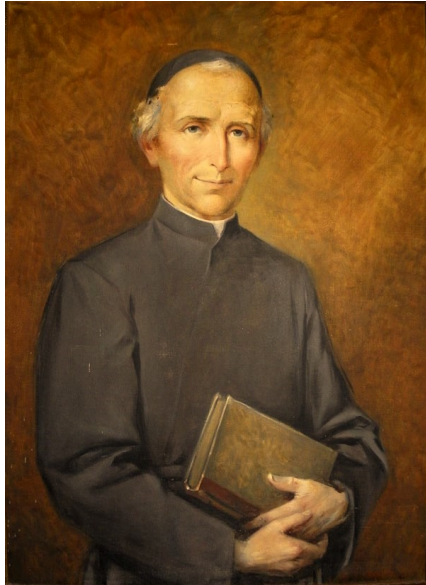


## Let the summer begin!

Happy summer! This newsletter informs 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](http://brunolanteri.org)).

Please feel welcome to browse our Venerable Bruno Guild [website](#) for previous issues. Recent prayer requests and testimonials will always be shared in our newsletter. These are shared by people who have asked us to share them with others and encourage them to pray too. We also share some news about projects in development with the Guild and ask for your prayers for their successful completion.

We are excited to make Ven. Bruno more widely known, as we believe his message has much to offer in this world. Our guild members are now actively spreading Ven. Bruno's stories in prisons, schools, parishes, the public square, and to family and friends. We have members that gather regularly in MA and via Google hangouts from FL, IL, PA, and beyond. In this issue, Fr. Bill Brown, OMV explains how reading good quality works can help us grow, develop, lead, and live like Christ. Spreading good Catholic reading was something Ven. Bruno did with zeal, and Fr. Bill explains the importance of promoting good reading in today's world. 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](mailto:lanterians@omvusa.org). To learn more about Venerable Bruno, go to [www.omvusa.org](http://www.omvusa.org) and click on the "Bruno Lanteri" link in the upper right corner.



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## **“If you want to lead, then you have to read” — a Lanterian reflection, by Fr. Bill Brown, OMV**

Last fall, I was driving in my car and listening to a talk show. The radio host was interviewing a retired United States Navy admiral, James Stavridis. Admiral Stavridis was speaking about a book he had just published called *The Leader's Bookshelf*. The purpose of his writing the book was to show how central reading is to leading. In the book, he provided a summary of the top fifty books that he recommends that demonstrate leadership that is impactful. During the interview, he said something that really stuck with me, “If you want to lead, then you have to read.”

Each of us, as Christians, lead in our own way. We may not be the leader of a company, a pastor of a church or the head of a department, but we lead nonetheless. We lead by the content of our character. We lead by how we live a virtuous life. We lead by our example. Reading is one means which gives us examples, illustrations and insights that help us to grow, develop, lead and live like Christ.

Therefore, it is not *that* we read, but *what* we read that is important. What we read helps to shape and form us, and it is a gateway to self-examination and growth as a person. Because of this reality, it is important that we read and get to know “good books” and then share them with others, so that they, too, may benefit from the same lessons we have learned.

**“Venerable Bruno Lanteri had a gift for putting the right book in the right hands at the right time, to help individuals grow in their human and spiritual life.” — Fr. Bill Brown, OMV**

Venerable Bruno Lanteri learned the power of good books to shape, form and develop a person's relationship with Christ. Through his mentor and spiritual companion, Father Nikolaus von Diessbach, SJ, he developed a passion for reading and had a gift for putting the right book in the right hands at the right time, to help individuals grow in their human and spiritual life.

Ven. Bruno's fervor influenced me in a personal and profound way several years ago. It ignited a fire that had grown dim within me. Having lost the enthusiasm for reading I had during my seminary training, I prayed for the grace to find it again. I prayed that this passion be used in my ministry of preaching, teaching and directing retreats. God answered my prayer.

The fire grew and a love for reading returned. I began to read whenever I could find time. Whether it was fifteen minutes here or thirty minutes there, I always found time to read. This new found fire enriched my preaching, my conversations with people from all walks of life, and guided me to put the right book in the right hands at the right time to help someone in his or her relationship with God.

The fruits of this grace had an effect upon the people from the parish where I celebrate Mass on Sundays. Often, they asked for the title of a book I quoted from in my homily. Later they shared how the book I recommended helped them in their lives and

## **“If you want to lead, then you have to read” (cont. from pg. 2)**

provided practical examples that made a difference.

One example was a story I shared from a book entitled, *How Now Shall We Live?* by Charles Colson. In one chapter, he describes the story of a soldier who was severely wounded, with little chance of survival, during a battle in the Vietnam War. When placed in the hallway of a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) one doctor made a choice to save his life even though it was doubtful he would survive surgery. Others questioned the doctor's decision as he was thought to have little quality of life and would make no contribution to society if he survived: he had lost both legs, his left arm and one of his eyes. The soldier survived, went on to marry, have children and live a productive life. In turn, he gave hope to other wounded soldiers who returned from the battlefield. His life had dignity and so did theirs. The doctor, who was a Christian himself, did not give up on him. This helped him to see that neither did God.

Several months later, a grandmother approached me and said how the story I shared in the homily helped her twenty-eight-year-old granddaughter who was seriously depressed and on the verge of despair. The story she heard led her to believe that she had value in the eyes of God and was important to others. The story encouraged her not to give up, but to keep going. It provided her an example of what it looks like to lead a life of perseverance, hope and trust.

Good books and stories inspire and lead people to grow spiritually and humanly. They can also offer hope. I have seen that in my own life and in the lives of others. Good books help us to see ourselves in them and how God is with us through those stories.

Fr. Lanteri knew how the power of a book can create positive change in a person that lasts. The right book at the right time can help us and others to be the best version of ourselves. In this way, we lead and point others to Christ whom we follow.



Fr. Bill Brown, OMV presently serves as Executive Director for Mission and Apostolate for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary's American Province. He has a BSC in Accounting from the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, California. In 1994, he received his Masters of Divinity from St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts and in 2006 his Masters of Arts Degree from Boston College in Pastoral Counseling.

## Fr. Bill Brown's Top Ten Summer Reading List

We asked Fr. Bill what top ten books he would recommend for a summer reading list, and these were his suggestions. Enjoy!

### #1 **How Now Shall We Live?** by Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey

Compares and contrasts Christian worldview from a secular world view and why the former is the one that makes sense and provides meaning. Through the categories of creation, fall, redemption and restoration, he provides inspiring and moving stories that show what this looks like in the lives of real people who are committed to Christ.

### #2 **Jesus, A Pilgrimage**, by James Martin, SJ

Using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius as a framework, and his personal pilgrimage to the Holy Land, this book provides riveting meditation on Jesus that helps the person encounter him in a deeply personal way.

### #3 **Boys in the Boat**, by Daniel James Brown

Story of nine Americans and their quest for the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics. An inspiring story of teamwork, discipline, grit and perseverance and how we need each other to go farther than we could go by ourselves. Great lesson for us as Christians as members of the Body of Christ.

### #4 **Being The Body**, by Charles Colson and Ellen Santilli Vaughn

Living in a world and culture that criticizes the Church and the truth of Gospel, this book challenges Christians to a new sense of unity and to stand up and not withdraw to the comfort of our sanctuaries, but give witness to Christ in the public square.

### #5 **Resisting Happiness**, by Matthew Kelly

Founder of Dynamic Catholic, Matthew Kelly gives the reasons why we sabotage ourselves, set aside our dreams and lack the courage to simply be ourselves. He provides thirty-seven practical lessons of how to start choosing happiness again and to be the person God has made you to be.

### #6 **A Chance in the World: An orphan boy, a mysterious past and how he found a place called home**, by Steve Pemberton

This is an autobiographical memoir. When a toddler and abandoned by his parents, a babysitter jotted down the words, "This little boy doesn't have a chance in the world." A stirring account of courage, hope and victory, this book is a story about what is possible when you dare to believe.

## Fr. Bill Brown's Top Ten Summer Reading List (cont. from pg. 4)

### #7 **To Light A Fire on the Earth**, by Bishop Robert Baron with John L. Allen, Jr.

Drawn from conversations with journalist John L. Allen, this book proclaims the beauty of the Catholic tradition and Bishop Baron offers smart, practical, artistic and theological observations to how we might proclaim the Gospel in a secular age.

### #8 **Seven Women: and the Secret of Their Greatness**, by Eric Metaxas

In this book, Metaxas provides an answer to the question, What makes a great woman great? Whether it is Mother Teresa, Corrie Ten Boom or Joan of Arc, Metaxas tells the captivating stories of seven women who changed the course of history and impacted the world in astonishing ways.

### #9 **The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness** by Timothy Keller

In this short, but yet profound book, Timothy Keller "shows that gospel humility means we can stop connecting every experience, every conversation with ourselves and can be thus free from self-condemnation." The book describes gospel-humble person is not a self-hating or a self-loving person, but a self-forgetful person.

### #10 **Tattoos on the Heart**, by Gregory Boyle, SJ

An astonishing book about suffering, dignity, death and resurrection. Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, has been working for two decades with gang members in the Los Angeles County. This book is a true story of what love, affirmation and a second chance can do to bring about



Enjoy the summer and take some time to read a good book or two! We'll be back in the Fall with more news and about Ven. Bruno and the work we are also doing to tell the story of his spiritual sons, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, in the United States.

Photo courtesy of Cabrini Pak Marywood Retreat Center in St. Johns, FL



## New prayer requests & testimonials

**Arizona:** Please join me in praying for the greatest and highest good for a 28-year-old young lady named M. She is very ill and her energy is drained. She is also under spiritual attack. Can you help by sending her your prayers and healing and love? Let us surround her with the Love and Light of God and save her life. Blessings on you all, thank you.

**Louisiana:** to be healthy enough to move out of assisted living. Thank you.

**New Jersey:** I am experiencing severe anxiety in my master's program for the first time in my life. I am overwhelmed. I need prayer that God will guide me through this and be with me every step of the way until graduation in August. I need prayer that he will take away all fear and anxiety and worry. I cannot live like this, it is taking years off my life. Thank you!

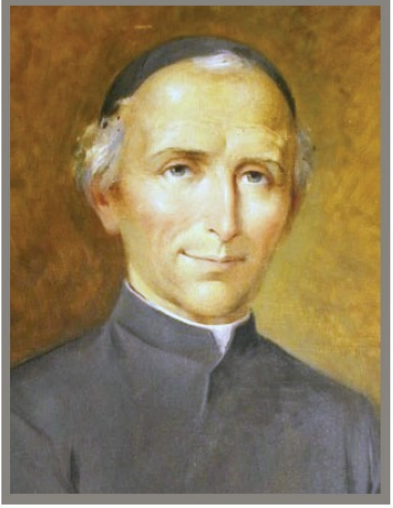
**USA:** I need a miracle, so I may not desire drugs or what is evil but strongly desire God's will for my life. In Jesus Name I also need to be transformed into a new person, one who is not greedy, but a person like Jesus Christ, and to always be hungry for his will. In Jesus Name pray for Me, and may God Bless You.

**USA:** Jesus, please bring your strength, understanding, forgiveness and loving light to K, T, and me regarding and the issues around my mother's passing. Give us strength to overcome all the difficulties that we are dealing with now and protect us against future struggles and fighting. Jesus bring us together in love, warm communication, kindness and empathy for each other. Insure we are generous, compassionate and share all property and proceeds of my estate equally between us. Please all calm our fears and mistrust and heal our family wounds. We overcome the need to be controlling and share the many blessing my mother bestowed upon us with love. Amen.

**USA:** Please pray. I think I am possessed by the devil and followers.

**USA:** Thank you so very much for your prayers for Mom in the past which have helped. Please pray that her lungs clear and she is able to breathe properly again and that she is healed in time for her endoscopy this Friday. Please pray that all goes well with the endoscopy and that they find the cause and heal her completely as well as healing her ulcer completely. Please pray that her infection gets totally healed and her white blood cell count goes back to normal. Please pray for complete and total healing for Mom and that she is able to live a very long, healthy and happy life. We are so blessed to have her on earth. Thank you again and God bless.

## New prayer cards available in Español

<p><i>Oración por la intercesión del Venerable Bruno Lanteri</i></p> <p>Oh Padre, fuente de toda la vida y santidad, tú diste a Venerable Bruno Lanteri gran fe en Cristo, tu Hijo, una esperanza viva, y un amor activo por la salvación de sus hermanos. Tú lo hiciste profeta de tu palabra y un testigo de tu misericordia. Él tenía un amor tierno por María, y a través de su vida, él enseñó fidelidad a la iglesia. Padre, escucha la oración de tu familia, y a través de la intercesión del Venerable Lanteri, concédenos la gracia que pedimos, que él ascienda a los altares, que nosotros podamos darte gran alabanza. Pedimos esto a través de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro señor. Amén.</p> <p>Favor enviarnos peticiones de oración a:</p> <p>Oblatos de la Virgen María • 2 Ipswich Street, Boston, MA 02215 brunolanteri@omvusa.org • www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri</p>	<p><i>Fundador de los Oblatos de la Virgen María</i></p>  <p><b>Venerable Bruno Lanteri</b> Mayo 12, 1759 - Agosto 5, 1830</p>
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Ahora tenemos tarjetas de oración del Ven. Bruno en español. Si deseas las tarjetas, escríbenos al correo electrónico: [lanterians@omvusa.org](mailto:lanterians@omvusa.org). ¡Gracias, y Dios te bendiga!

*The prayer card has also been translated to Tagalog. We need help translating it to other languages. If you would like to volunteer to help us, please email us below!*

## 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](mailto:lanterians@omvusa.org).



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

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

