

VENERABLE BRUNO GUILD

PROMOTING BRUNO LANTERI'S CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

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OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY



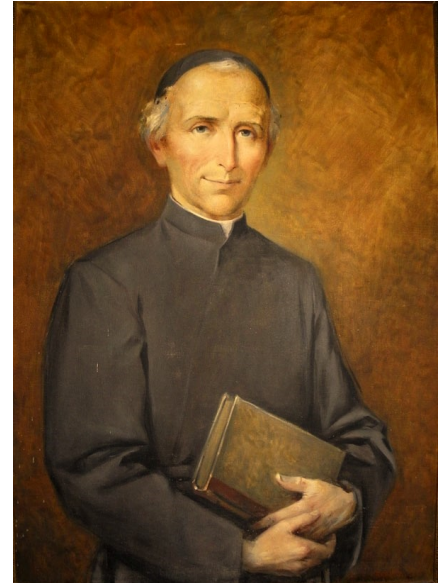
Happy Fall/Winter!

Greetings from chilly New England! 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 (www.omvusa.org/bruno-lanteri).

Please feel welcome to browse our Venerable Bruno Guild [website](http://www.omvusa.org) 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 ask them to pray too. We also share some news about projects in development with the Guild and ask for your prayers for their success.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Cabrini Pak has finished her manuscript on Lanterian Spirituality in the United States and it is currently under review with a publisher. Please pray for smooth completion of the book's publishing! In this issue, Dr. Pak offers a reflection on spiritual combat and Susan Mire shares how Ven. Bruno's spirituality infuses her everyday life. We also have a wonderful opportunity to connect with the OMV, via a pilgrimage to Italy and France with Fr. Jim Walther, OMV.

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.



IN THIS ISSUE

Spiritual Combat in the Liminal Spaces	2
Prayer Partnering, The Lanterian Way	5
Pilgrimage to Italy & France with Fr. Jim Walther, OMV	6
Bruno Lanteri: A Man for Our Times, by Susan Mire	8
New Prayer Requests	10

Spiritual Combat in the Liminal Spaces

By Cabrini Pak, Ph.D., Religion and Culture

Our Catholic world has found itself in a troubling liminal space, "betwixt and between" an old regime of silence and suppression and something yet to be realized in the Church: a new order? Liminal spaces can be ambiguous, ambivalent places of uncertainty in our lives where we may be tempted to abandon our beliefs or practices. It is there that we, as individuals and as part of a mystical body, may find ourselves plunged into a fierce spiritual battle for our faith, our way of life, our very being as Christians. We see human beings who have committed great evil in the Church and seemingly remain untouched by the justice due them. We also see the wreckage they caused in the lives of their victims and the scandal they caused among the faithful. The sheep have scattered. Our minds and hearts are torn with conflict, especially among Catholics who have been faithful to a 2,000-year-old tradition, who trusted in the shepherds and bishops to guide us Home. Instead, many shepherds and not a few bishops appear to have paved the road to Hell. Many, but not all. The battle begins.

Ven. Bruno Lanteri was no stranger to tumultuous times in the Church. He lived in a time when sovereigns around the world were hostile to Rome, and religious orders and monasteries were suppressed to weaken their influence on the people. For much of his adult life, he lived under the occupation of a foreign power that sought to destroy the Church's influence in his country. He was placed under house arrest for years after being caught helping the imprisoned Pope Pius VII to reach out to the faithful and inform them that Napoleon's unilateral actions in the Church were invalid.

About five or six years before Napoleon invaded Italy, Ven. Bruno, then between 30 and 32 years old, wrote down some fruits of a retreat. The fruits of these reflections would have well-prepared him for spiritual combat in the years that followed, and given that they survived intact after his death, they were likely lessons he revisited regularly. The structure of his brief reflection seems almost to mirror a tactic found in the fourteenth rule of discernment found in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius:¹

The conduct of our enemy may also be compared to tactics of a leader intent upon seizing and plundering a position he desires. A commander and leader of an army will encamp, explore the fortifications and defenses of the stronghold, and attack at the weakest point. In the same way, the enemy of our human nature investigates from every side all our virtues, theological, cardinal, and moral. Where he finds the defenses of eternal salvation weakest and most deficient, there he attacks and tries to take us by storm.

In his 1789 – 1791 notes, which took up a single sheet of paper on both sides, he noted his own defects and their remedies. His defects, he says, include "negligence in the things of God, done therefore in a superficial way and with no real commitment; hardness, roughness with my neighbor; little charity and concern for the body and soul; over-concern for temporal matters, too much attachment to material things; fear of making an effort when it costs me to do so." The first item on his list of remedies is

Spiritual Combat in the Liminal Spaces (cont. from pg. 2)

scripturally grounded:
 "Verify in myself often throughout the day, that is, with frequent exams, whether truly: I love God above all things. I love my neighbor as myself." All of his remedies mentioned after that directly addressed each defect that he noticed about himself. He summed up the efforts towards a particular disposition: "freedom of spirit, built upon the desire to die to myself, to please God."²

We can learn three things from Ven. Bruno's example about spiritual combat in the liminal spaces. First, in times of peace, become well-acquainted with one's own weaknesses in virtue and work with the Lord to strengthen those virtues with the development of good habits. Second, stay grounded in scripture when meditating on antidotes to one's vices. Third, when we enter the liminal space, listen. Acknowledge. Then act. Ven. Bruno did all three of these things throughout his life, especially in the liminal spaces of his time.

(cont. on Page 4)



Archangel Michael Hurls the Rebellious Angels into the Abyss
 Luca Giordano, circa 1666

Spiritual Combat in the Liminal Spaces (cont. from pg. 3)

By Cabrini Pak, Ph.D., Religion and Culture

"Listen. Acknowledge. Then Act."

What I mean by the trio, listen, acknowledge, then act, is this: listen with a critical ear to what is happening around you. Don't take mental shortcuts or get sucked into a mob mentality of panic or rage. Process that information carefully. Acknowledge or name the troubling phenomena contributing to the flux in the liminal space. Then act to address the problem. When acting, as Ven. Bruno did, remember that one does not have to do it alone. For example, Ven. Bruno collaborated with members of Catholic secret networks, among them the Amicizia Cristiana, to get needed work done for the imprisoned pope even in the chaos of war.

There are good shepherds and bishops who, while the sheep scatter from scandal or injury, work tirelessly to help get them back to safety and strive to protect them from predators and evildoers. You will not often see them in the spotlight of TV shows or news agencies. Instead, most are quietly working in the background, continuing to make the sacraments available to the faithful, going to visit the sick, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the elderly, and celebrating Mass with a prayer for the people in their midst. They will be offering spiritual direction and retreats for the weary. They too, will be in the midst of the spiritual battle, ready to walk with those in need of a battle buddy.

Prayer is another way to take action. Asking for the intercession of the living and the dead, including the saints, is a powerful, scripturally grounded practice that also supports those engaged in spiritual battle. Having a prayer partner is another way of being accompanied in spiritual battle. As Ven. Bruno's spiritual sons, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary help to form their own seminarians and other men and women as prayer partners through the Lanteri Center in Denver and the Prayer Partnering Program in Boston. For more information, please see the flyer on the next page (pg. 5).

Works Cited

1. Puhl, SJ, Louis J. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: Based on the Studies in the Language of the Autograph*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 1951.
2. The Oblates of the Virgin Mary. *The Spiritual Writings of Venerable Pio Bruno Lanteri: A Selection*. Boston: Oblates of the Virgin Mary, 2001.



MARIAM COGITA
MARIAM INVOCA

Dr. Cabrini Pak is a research consultant for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary and is currently leading the Guild's national effort to promote Ven. Bruno's cause for canonization. She also author of the book, *Men of Mercy, Sons of Mary: Lanterian Spirituality in the United States*, which is expected to be released in 2019.

Prayer Partnering, The Lanterian Way



Want more out of your prayer life?

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary offer a training program for Prayer Partners at the Lanteri Center in Denver, and at St. Clement Shrine in Boston. This three-year program equips Oblate seminarians and other clergy, religious and lay men and women for this service of spiritual accompaniment. To learn more about these formation programs or how to find a prayer partner, please visit omvusa.org/lanteri-center or contact us at lantericenter@omvusa.org. To find out more about the Prayer Partnering program in Boston, contact Fr. Tom Carzon, OMV at tcarzon@omvusa.org.

Who is a Prayer Partner?

A prayer partner is someone who, through sustained personal prayer with Scripture and spiritual direction, has discerned a call from God to accompany others in their own prayer. He or she is trained to help others learn to pray with Scripture, go deeper in their prayer, and prayerfully reflect on their spiritual experiences. He or she works closely with souls on an individual basis so that they may respond more generously to God's love and hear His call to serve in the world.

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MONTE CARLO AND
NICE**

with Fr. Jim Walther

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Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Turin, Monte Carlo and Nice With Fr. Jim Walther, OMV

Want to try a fun pilgrimage experience with an OMV Father in Italy and France? Join us next summer for a pilgrimage that will include a visit to Rome, Assisi, Turin, Pinerolo, which is Ven. Bruno's town, and much more!

JUN 2	Arrival to Rome; dinner and breakfast served on the flight
JUN 3	Rome; Basilica of St. Paul; shops near St. Peter's Square; Papal Audience
JUN 4	Christian Rome Tour; walking tour of highlights of Rome
JUN 5	Papal Audience; Frascati Wine Region; Papal summer residence
JUN 6	St. Peter's Basilica; Vatican Museum; Assisi; Mass at tomb of Pope St. John Paul II; Sistine Chapel;
JUN 7	Assisi; St. Francis Basilica; tomb of St. Francis and St. Clare
JUN 8	Turin; Parma; explore Turin on your own
JUN 9	Turin; saints of Turin; Shroud of Turin; visit and eat at Eataly food emporium
JUN 10	Turin—Pinerolo; follow the footsteps of Ven. Bruno Lanteri, founder of OMV
JUN 11	Turin—Monaco—Nice; drive along French Riviera; visit Monaco; arrive at Nice
JUN 12	Nice; Cathedra; Saint Reparte; Eglise Sainte Rita; leisure exploring of Nice
JUN 13	Depart for US after breakfast

Package: \$3,985

Passport must be valid through Dec. 13, 2019

Prices valid through Feb. 22, 2019; final payment due Apr. 2, 2019

For more information and registration, please contact Evelyn Wavrek, 800-842-4842, evelyn@select-intl.com, of Select International Tours.



Bruno Lanteri: A Man for our Times

By Susan Mire

Every two months, I open up Google chat and make a video call into a meeting of the Venerable Bruno Lanteri Guild. Our Guild formed to tell the story of Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary (OMV). Venerable Bruno's cause for canonization is underway, and our goal is to see it completed. The [OMV webpage](#) devoted to this cause distills the heart of his ministry:

The teachings and spirituality of Venerable Bruno Lanteri were preserved in his writings and have remained actionable and relevant in modern times...

Venerable Lanteri preached and wrote about the infinite Mercy of the Father manifested in Jesus Christ. But more than that, he lived it in his everyday life, as he taught the Oblates to do. Through Reconciliation and spiritual direction, he connected with people along their personal journey to knowing God's mercy.

I work at a community college that values offering students a second chance, no matter their life circumstances or academic status. A steady stream of students of every ethnicity, economic status, and religious faith (or no faith) flows through most of my days. Each transcript has a personal story behind it, and in the course of a day I might

"Venerable Bruno Lanteri's ministry of spiritual direction lives on as I receive his counsel daily."

—Susan Mire

encounter anyone from a straight-A student headed for academic glory at a four-year university, to a homeless student simultaneously struggling to stay in school and secure housing. It's a rewarding job, and I cherish each of my students and the academic support I can offer at this time in their lives.

For the past several years, I have left behind the needs of my students and the busy life of my college to make an Ignatian 8-day retreat with the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Well into the semester, I set out for St. Joseph Retreat Center, the Oblates' retreat house in Milton, Massachusetts.

I have a routine during this time away, a small journey I take when I am deep into my retreat. It happens after I've passed through the initial days' transition, away from the noise of the world, and am resting peacefully in deep stillness. I am enfolded in the heart of Christ, and from there can be shown something new.

My routine is this: I wander around the retreat center as if I've never seen it before. I take a walk down the stairs. I stop and stare at each and every statue, asking to be introduced again, as if I've never met this saint, or that particular rendering of Christ or his Mother. I look at each picture on the walls as if each is totally new. I look out many different windows on terrain I've seen before, but which now seems somehow different.

It was on my second deep retreat stroll that I first noticed Venerable Bruno Lanteri. I contemplated his words, framed and hung on a wall at St. Joseph's: "If I should fall even a thousand times a day, a thousand times, with peaceful repentance, I will say immediately, Nunc Coepi (Now I begin)."

(cont. on page 9)

Bruno Lanteri: A Man for our Times (cont. from pg. 8)

I was so struck by the hope-filled implications of beginning again daily, even many times a day, that I just stopped and stared at the quote, for a long time. My sins, weaknesses, bad habits and long standing-struggles all flashed before my eyes, now in a new light. Bruno Lanteri had captured my attention.

Starting that night, almost eight years ago, Venerable Bruno Lanteri reached out to me as only an up-and-coming Catholic saint can, reaching across time, distance, culture, and life experience to draw me into his own life and faith. He fathers me into the ways of God's mercy, lived each day and with each person that I encounter. Without using religious language, I can convey the heart of Lanteri's spirituality to those most in need.

To the homeless student, I can speak to Lanteri's counsel that discouragement is the greatest obstacle in the spiritual journey, extending out to all of life. To the successful but deeply anxious student, I can share Lanteri's emphasis on spiritual joy. To the young person searching for a career path, and even more deeply, their purpose in life, I can communicate his insistence on leaving the past to the mercy of God, and the future to His divine providence.

Venerable Bruno Lanteri's ministry of spiritual direction lives on as I receive his counsel daily, reflecting his and the Oblates' spirituality of divine encouragement and hope in God. As I listen and provide guidance to each student, I trust that he wants me to reflect his Counsels of Mercy to each person I encounter.

This secular college has become my Lanterian mission field; my prayer is that each student I encounter receives a share of Lanteri's ministry, of his encouragement and joy. Though I don't speak about him directly, I pray that, through his intercession, a restless heart may one day be sparked to seek that Divine love that he knew so well.

As Venerable Bruno Lanteri once shared with me, deep in the heart of that retreat, so I can share with my students, whatever their circumstances or beliefs, this: Nunc Coepi-Now I begin.

—Susan Mire is a member of the Venerable Bruno Lanteri Guild



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VENERABLE BRUNO GUILD

New Prayer Requests

Bangalore, India: Kindly pray for my job change, debts to be cleared, parents health.

Ireland: Please pray for my father who is mourning the death of his wife, my mother. He was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Please pray for him and his family as his physical health is deteriorating. May his heart's desire be granted.

Philippines: Our beloved father died hours ago and needs your prayers badly. He is a father of a Catholic priest and poverty and health problems ended his life. We thought of helping him but there was not enough support to do the job. Also, please include in your prayers the fast and complete recovery of B. He'd been unconscious for more than one or two weeks in the I. C. U. May The Most Merciful and Most Miraculous Lord God Jesus Christ send him The Holy Spirit of Good Health, Fortitude, Temperance, Patience, Better Life and Chastity. May He cure the sick. Amen!

USA: Please pray for my wife's cousin, D. He has terminal cancer. Cancer of stomach, liver and now spread to spine. He was given 3-6 months to live about 3 months ago. He is the father of 2 children. Sadly, his only sibling passed away from an unexpected heart attack last year. Of course this has brought untold suffering on their parents who had to see their son die last year and are watching their sole remaining child slowly die. I am a big fan of Ven. Bruno Lanteri having listened/watched Fr. Gallagher's book/movie/podcasts. I place this petition before the OMCV community in hopes that Ven. Bruno Lanteri may intercede, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and in the name of Jesus, to heal D so that he may "begin again". I pray that Ven. Bruno Lanteri's successful intercession, which would be a documented miracle, will propel him to sainthood.

USA: We will have a Christmas celebration for inner-city people. It is 12.17.2018. We ask that you pray that God saves, heals and renews a lot of people and that all goes well.

Louisiana: Please help me pray for K who is in a desperate situation and needs miraculous help for the sake of his son and for the needs of my family and friends. Thank You.

Massachusetts: For my sister who was diagnosed with degenerative eye tissue that could result in blindness. Through the intercession of Venerable Bruno Lanteri and the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, may she be completely healed and restored to health, in Jesus name.

Virginia: I ask for wisdom and guidance in running the religious education program in my parish.

Ven. Bruno Prayer Now Available in Five Languages on website!

We encourage you to ask for prayers and special favors through the intercession of Venerable Bruno Lanteri. To request that the Oblates join you in prayer, please [send us a prayer request](#).

Read the prayer in English below. If you'd prefer to say the intercession in Spanish, French or Tagalog, those translations are available on the following pages.

[SPANISH](#)
[FRENCH](#)
[ITALIAN](#)
[TAGALOG](#)

Prayer for the Intercession of Venerable Bruno Lanteri

O Father, fountain of all life and holiness

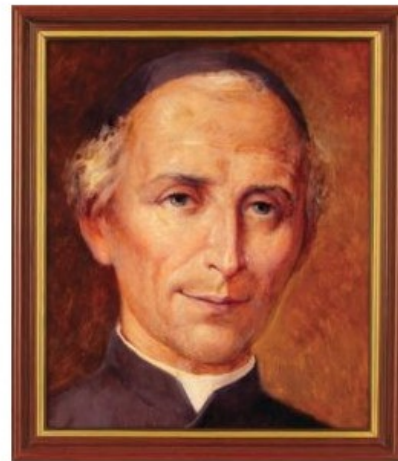
You gave Venerable Bruno Lanteri great faith in Christ, your son, a lively hope, and an active love for the salvation of his brethren.

You made him a prophet of your word and a witness to your mercy.

He had a tender love for Mary and by his very life he taught fidelity to the Church.

Father, hear the prayer of Your family and, through the intercession of Venerable Lanteri, grant us the grace for which we now ask

May he be raised to the altars that we may give You greater praise. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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 leading 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.

