

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

BACK IN THE HABIT



Dear Friend,

A few months ago, I got measured for a new habit, our religious garb. I haven't worn a habit in years as time has been unkind to me, making me a more "robust" individual. But it was time for me to get back into my religious habit. Why? A habit says who you are. I am an Oblate of the Virgin Mary and our habit helps identify me as such and helps me to remember that.

The last year and a half has been hard on us all with the Covid pandemic. Many did not feel comfortable going out, which kept us isolated from others for what seemed like forever. In some ways that "time" was unkind to all of us. A lot of practicing Catholics are a bit out of practice. We've gotten out of the habit of being together and enjoying each other's company. Spiritually many of us are out of shape.

Now is the time to begin establishing good habits for ourselves again like going to church together on Sundays as a family or saying good morning to God and inviting God to be part of our day when we wake up. On our way to work we can start spending 5 minutes in the car without music while we take a moment to remember and pray for those whom we promised we would.

I don't remember who said this, but I remember a phrase that has stuck with me over the years:

“ Watch your thoughts – they become words; Watch your words – they become actions; Watch your actions – they become habits; Watch your habits – they become character; Watch your character – for it becomes your destiny!



Please God, help all of us get back into good habits and remember who we are! ☞

Blessings,

Fr. Jim Walther, OMV
Provincial Rector

“ I am annoyed that we are so separated from each other, and that circumstances make it so difficult for us to get together.

VENERABLE BRUNO LANTERI
OMV FOUNDER

TIMELESS ADVICE FOR PRACTICING THE FAITH



VENERABLE BRUNO LANTERI
OMV FOUNDER

- “ I propose, for a trial period of a month, to practice six acts of generosity every day, and to note them down.
- “ Remember spiritual reading, even if it is but a single page.
- “ Read with attention and without hurry, pausing on those truths which speak more to our present needs.
- “ Do not skip spiritual reading, the examen, and the like.
- “ Do not wait until you have devotion to begin all this; begin all the same, without devotion.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ELDER OBLATES NEED OUR HELP



One of the downsides of having seasoned, faithful priests in the OMV ranks is that they are getting older. These dedicated OMV priests and brothers need more care for their health. As you know these men don't retire. Even ill, they are still serving the communities where they live.

Medical care is expensive. Not all Oblates are eligible for medical assistance through Medicare or Medicaid in the states in which they reside. Some funds for their care have come from gifts to local ministries, some from a charitable grant received annually, and some from the Lanteri Charitable Trust. However, this does not cover the full cost of medical and compassionate care for these dedicated priests.

Last year alone, during the pandemic, the cost for care for one location was over \$100K. Currently one of our priests needs 24-hour care, and managing that care can be challenging.

If we cannot pay for care through donations and grants, then the money comes from our Operating account, which funds important ministries and other primary needs.

And this was before the pandemic.

No doubt this worldwide catastrophe has hurt everyone. The Oblates continue to serve the Lord and his flock, but now they also need our help to care for them. 🙏

Rose Cummings

Director of Finance

Oblates of the Virgin Mary



GIVING MADE EASY

Break your gift into manageable installments with Monthly, Quarterly or Annual recurring gift options at omvusa.org/annual-appeal

DONOR STORY: JIM JESSEE

Jim Jessee served as co-chair of the 2021 OMV Gala which funds the formation of Oblate Seminarians. He also serves as trustee of the Lanteri Charitable Trust which was established to help fund the care of the elder priests and brothers of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.



I first met the Oblates 10 years ago, when we moved our offices to a building adjoining the Prudential Center in Boston. I quickly realized that around the corner from the Dunkin Donuts, there's actually a small Catholic chapel right there in the mall. It was really a great opportunity to attend Mass, receive the sacraments, and quite frankly... took away any excuse for missing a holy day of obligation!

Over time, I got to know the priests of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, their mission, and their spirituality. Now I am close to these guys and am always impressed by their passion for leading the Church forward. I believe the way they are leading in their parishes is a model for how the Catholic Church should be in the future.

That's why I choose to support the Oblates in any way I can. 🙏

— Jim Jessee

MISSION: PHILIPPINES

Please keep our brothers and seminarians in the Philippines in your prayers. Circumstances surrounding the pandemic remain much more challenging in this part of the world.



CONGRATULATIONS, MIGGO & CHRIS!

Miggo and Chris officially concluded 2 years of studies as Postulants and began their Novitiate year during a ceremony at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine this summer. This is a year of spiritual discernment and preparation for first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience directed by Oblate novice master, Fr. Shawn Monahan, OMV.



CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Fr. Larry Darnell, OMV celebrated his 81st birthday in August. He has been an Oblate of the Virgin Mary for 46 years. At age 81, Fr. Larry still serves as a compassionate and capable Pastor of the parish of St. Peter Chanel, as he has done for over 27 years.

In a recent interview, he reflects on how God prepared him for his life's work through each experience on his journey: from childhood, college, and career, to answering the call, formation as an Oblate of the Virgin Mary, and obediently accepting assignments around the world.

Fr. Larry grew up in a good home in Memphis, Tennessee, the youngest of 3, and attended Catholic school. He first received his priestly call at 18 when he received some pamphlets but threw them in the wastebasket because he had been accepted to Princeton.

He attended Princeton University where his focus on academics almost caused him to lose his faith. However, on the rowing team he felt a great sense of community and brotherhood among his teammates, and found release from tensions in the physical rigor of the sport. While in college, he served as a Marine reservist for 6 years. Both his crew team and the Marines fostered discipline and community, serving as foundations for religious life.

Following college, young Larry returned to Memphis and began a successful career in the insurance industry for four years. Increasingly, he felt unfulfilled and felt Our Lady calling him back to the church. He started attending daily Mass and realized that he wanted to be at church instead of selling insurance.

"When I was 29, Our Lady goes to the wastebasket, she takes the vocation out, she dusts it off... She says, 'Try Again.'"

With the guidance of his spiritual director, he began formation with the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Rome and continued later in Boston. He struggled in his journey as he had to learn to be a new person, to be humble, to obey, and to trust the spirit.

Br. Larry's first assignment was to a very large impoverished parish of 20,000 in the suburbs of São Paulo, Brazil with Fr. Sergio, OMV. In 1982, he was ordained a priest while in Brazil. Fr. Larry credits his ability to lead today's flock of 50,000 at St. Peter Chanel to the great example of Fr. Sergio and the pastoral training he provided. In



retrospect, Fr. Larry believes, "What God was actually doing in my life was training me to come to St. Peter Chanel."

Fr. Larry learned great love from the people in Brazil and did not want to leave them, but returned to the United States under obedience to serve as administrator of St. Francis Chapel in Boston. He felt unprepared for the role and had to learn to manage finances, maintenance issues, and legal matters. Looking back, he recognizes, "What was God doing? He was training me to come to St. Peter Chanel."

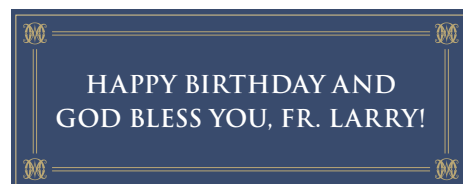
Fr. Larry relocated to California in 1989 to serve with Fr. Antolini at St. Peter Chanel. He became Pastor of St. Peter Chanel in 1994, leading the community to great devotion to the Eucharist, Our Lady, the Rosary, the Spiritual Exercises, and the strong faith community that exists today.

There is an Oblate ideal handed down from the beginnings of the congregation that says, "*The Oblate*

dies in the pulpit or in the confessional." Fr. Larry appears determined to do just that! 🙏

“
In this house, Jesus is next door... I'm in the same house as Jesus Christ and the same house with other people dedicated to following Christ. That's a beautiful thing. I love being a religious!

— FR. LARRY ON THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN OBLATE OF THE VIRGIN MARY



WELCOME NEWS! MOVES AROUND THE PROVINCE

You may see some new and familiar faces as we welcome you back to all the places where the Oblates serve.



Boston welcomes **Fr. Sean Morris, OMV** as the new Rector of Our Lady of Grace Seminary! Fr. Sean previously served as the Director of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice, Florida.



Our Lady of Grace Seminary also welcomes back novice master, **Fr. Shawn Monahan, OMV**. Last year Fr. Shawn served on the pastoral staff of the Cathedral in Venice, Florida.



Boston also welcomes back **Br. Nathan Marzonie, OMV**, who is returning from pastoral ministry at Holy Ghost in Denver and **Br. Leland Thorpe, OMV** who is returning from his pastoral year at St. Mary's in Alton.



Three of our parishes and a retreat house welcome seminarians for a pastoral year where they will gain first-hand experience under the guidance of their more experienced brother Oblates.



St. Joseph Retreat House in Milton, Massachusetts welcomes **Br. Jonas Verdeflor, OMV!**



Holy Ghost Parish in Denver, Colorado welcomes **Br. Jonathon Hanks, OMV!**



St. Peter Chanel Parish in Hawaiian Gardens, California welcomes **Br. Jay-Ar San Juan, OMV!**



St. Mary's in Alton, Illinois welcomes **Br. Jorge Sanchez, OMV!**



The Alton community welcomes **Fr. Paul Kallal, OMV** in his new assignment as chaplain of Marquette Catholic High School. He also continues to serve as Assistant Vocation Director.



The Hawaiian Gardens community welcomes **Fr. Jerry Wright, OMV**, one of our senior priests, who is now serving in parish ministry at St. Peter Chanel.



Finally, our Florida community welcomes **Fr. Tom Carzon, OMV**. After 15 years as rector of Our Lady of Grace Seminary, Fr. Tom is returning to parish ministry in the Diocese of Venice, Florida!




 As heirs of the spirit of Father Lanteri,
 Oblate priests adopt a pastoral style characterized by
 availability, amiability, patience, and meekness,
 attitudes manifesting to men the infinite goodness
 and mercy of God the Father.



ARTICLE 9, CONSTITUTIONS

SAVE THE DATE!

OMV Annual Gala
April 30, 2022
Seaport Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts



MASSES & MEMORIALS

Remember a loved one with a Mass or
Enrollment at omvusa.org/masses-memorials.