



“LOVE WHOLLY, WITHOUT HALF MEASURES, AND WITHOUT RESERVE.” —VENERABLE BRUNO LANTERI, OMV FOUNDER

### IN THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*A reflection by Fr. Michael Warren, OMV*

“Oh Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine.” This pithy and popular prayer is especially appropriate for the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Venerable Bruno himself was a proponent of the adoration of the Heart of Jesus and of the ensuing implications for the faithful. The Lanterian dimensions of this devotion may be gleaned by meditating on this letter of Venerable Bruno's written in June 1810 to one of his most illustrious spiritual sons, Pietro Leopoldo Ricasoli.

“I take advantage of the opportunity to rejoice with you that the Lord has happily, as I hope, brought you back into the bosom of your family. One notes always more clearly that the Lord watches over you with a paternal providence, to whom it is most right that you correspond by seconding the loving designs of so good a heavenly Father, all the more since this is the only way to obtain that tranquility of spirit and peace of heart which renders us happy in this world.

For this I do not doubt that you at this hour have already set up a certain order in your daily occupations, among which,

beyond the duties

of your own state, I am sure that you have not forgotten, amidst the other exercises of piety, spiritual reading (and I would ask you to let me know which book you are using), meditation, Holy Mass, the examination of conscience every day, then weekly the Holy Sacraments. And I ask you insistently to favor me soon with news of these, together with that of your health, and of all the family, which interests me very much.

My health is always poor, and I believe that soon the Lord will wish that I begin my proximate preparation for the great passage to eternity. That which is certain, I have great need of your prayers and of those of the Amici, to whom I ask you to recommend me particularly. And dearly embracing you in the Sacred Heart of Jesus I declare myself... Lanteri”

Pictured: Painting above the main altar of the sanctuary of Sacro Cuore in Pinerolo, Italy.

Venerable Bruno Lanteri is buried there, and plans are underway to renovate the chapel to accommodate visitors seeking his intercession.

### Pray With Us for OMV Vocations

O Glorious St. Joseph,  
model of masculinity and purity,  
you were the head of the holy household in Nazareth. You  
are also the special patron of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.  
We now entrust to you the Oblates' future, and their desire  
for growth in vocations and mission for the sanctification of  
its members and the salvation of souls.  
Through your powerful intercession, make them numerous,  
faithful, wise and courageous sons of Mary.

Amen



Ven. Bruno’s words of farewell confirm his paternal affection for Ricasoli and encapsulate all that he has conveyed in the body of

the letter. Ven. Bruno “dearly embraces”

Ricasoli “in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

It is a rather audacious claim of Fr. Lanteri’s; even

“declaring” himself in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To declare oneself is of an entirely different magnitude than to observe something. Observation is a passive undergoing, while declaration is personal and active participation. Ven. Bruno manifests his complete confidence in the Sacred Heart that he can in fact embrace Ricasoli with it. We can see then that a critical component of Lanterian Spirituality is this confident and assertive interior agency. For Ven. Bruno, one must be an active agent within the Sacred Heart of Christ. This means experiencing oneself as a loved and redeemed sinner who participates dependently but freely and actively in the mission of Christ. He can discern within himself the effect of Christ’s love for him.

### *Questions For Reflection*

Do you feel empowered by grace to have spiritual agency, or do you feel more passive in the spiritual life?

What would it mean for you to have spiritual agency?

Active participation in communion with God’s providence marks the essential message of Ven. Bruno’s letter. Lanteri

establishes in the opening lines of the letter that communion in the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a declarative act. He “rejoices with” Ricasoli in hope that his spiritual son has

returned to “the bosom” of his family. In this way Ven. Bruno reveals that embracing someone in the Sacred Heart means living in an ecstatic state. By this we mean not necessarily high emotion (though that may in fact be a feature of the experience) but more importantly that Lanteri and Ricasoli live within each other in a spiritual sense because each one experiences within himself the effect of the other’s life. Ven. Bruno wants Ricasoli to experience within himself the effect of Lanteri’s paternal affection for him, which Lanteri is confident will be an encouragement for Ricasoli.

Moreover, in his counsel to Ricasoli, Ven. Bruno indicates that the active response to divine providence is to attempt to imitate the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is accomplished by “seconding the loving designs” of the heavenly Father.

Ven. Bruno then commends Ricasoli for the “order” he has set up in his life through fidelity to his daily duties of state and spiritual exercises. Lanterian spirituality is ordering one’s life through an affective experience within the ecstatic love of God revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All these many Junes later we find ourselves called by the Church to an active participation in its life and mission. Contemplating the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the light of Lanterian Spirituality empowers us to meet that call interiorly.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Guild Meeting

Friday, July 21 7-8:30pm EDT  
online



### Priestly Ordination

Rev. Jonas Verdeflor, OMV  
Friday, June 16, 2023 at 4 pm



### Priestly Ordination

Rev. Jay-Ar San Juan, OMV  
Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 11 am  
St. Peter Chanel Church

## Announcing the Now I Begin Book Club

In June 2023, the Oblates of the Virgin Mary launch the NOW I BEGIN Book Club. This initiative was inspired by Venerable Bruno Lanteri (1759-1830) whose propagation of good books became one of the key charisms of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Father Bruno established the Amicizia Cristiana, Christian Friendship, whose purpose was to propagate good books that would help people grow in their spiritual and personal life.

Fr. Bill Brown, OMV will be leading this initiative, and it can be found on the Oblate YouTube Chanel. Fr. Bill will cover and discuss one book every two months. The books include spiritual, religious and secular titles. Ven. Lanteri believed that putting the right book in the right hands at the right time can make a difference in a person’s life and relationship with God and can even change the direction of their lives. The hope of Now I Begin Book Club is that lessons learned from the books will help individuals in their personal, family, spiritual and professional lives.



## Key Dates in Venerable Bruno Lanteri's Life

**On April 7, 1826, Frs. Lanteri and Loggero left Turin for Rome**, where they would seek papal approval of Congregation. It was the beginning of tumultuous five-month stay in Rome that would end in papal approval of the Oblates.

**On May 12, 1759, Bruno Lanteri was born in Cuneo.** That same day, his parents, Pietro and Margherita, had him baptized in the local parish. Bruno was the seventh of ten children.

**On May 25, 1782, Venerable Bruno was ordained a priest** in the church of the Immaculate Conception in Turin. He was twenty-three years old and had received a dispensation from the age requirement.

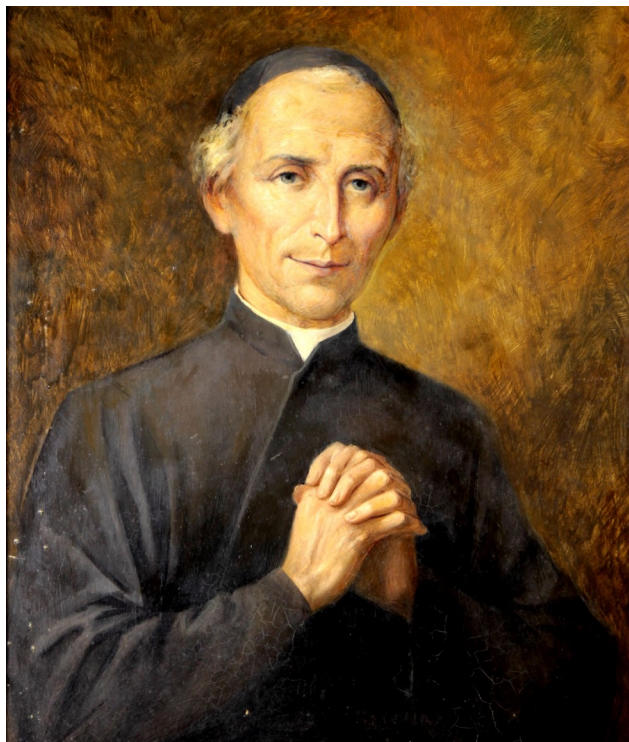
Some months before his ordination, the young Bruno wrote, “The holy and true spirit of a priest corresponds to the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and to the qualities of charity listed by St. Paul. Always be zealous, of great heart, free, faithful, simple, candid, warm, peaceful, open to the will of God, desirous of pleasing him alone and of gaining souls for him, joyful, compassionate, yielding in all that which is not of offense to God, gentle, and humble of heart.”



## OMV Vocations Update

The woman pictured above was wheeled into the midst of OMV Seminarians by her son on the day of the gala because she was overjoyed and filled with hope by seeing so many young clerics and wanted to meet them. It was a spirit-filled encounter for all which demonstrates the tremendous need for increased vocations today!

The Oblate Vocation Team is asking help from our friends and benefactors when it comes to referring young men who may have a call to the priesthood and religious life. First of all, we ask you to please pray for vocations to the Oblates so we can continue our mission and ministry in the Church. We would be interested in learning what information and materials you would need and find helpful when it comes to referring a young man to the Oblates. Email suggestions to [advancement@omvusa.org](mailto:advancement@omvusa.org) with subject line *Vocation Referral Suggestions*.



## Pray With Us *for Venerable Bruno's Cause*

*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*

## The Chaplet of Ven. Bruno Lanteri

*(from prayers composed by  
Ven. Bruno Lanteri, OMV)*

Bless me, Good Jesus, with your Omnipotence.  
Instruct me with your Wisdom. Fill me with  
your Sweetness. Draw me unto you and unite  
me to your Goodness Forever. *Amen*

*(Ask for a grace worthy of God)*

Pray 7 Times the following sequence:

- ◇ Hail Mary . . .
- ◇ O Virgin immaculately conceived, put  
into my heart those things of your Son  
most pleasing to him.
- ◇ Glory be . . .
- ◇ O Good Jesus, I thirst for You.

Finish: Venerable Bruno Lanteri, Pray for us.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

*Nihil Obstat: Dr. Stephen Fahrig, S.T.D.  
Permission: +Sean P. Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap.,  
Archbishop of Boston  
Date: February 22, 2019*

## TESTIMONIALS

### *From a laywoman on Lanteri Counsels of Mercy:*

*"Thank you for the Counsels of Mercy pamphlet from the writings of Venerable Bruno Lanteri that I received several months ago in the mail. I love it and begin each day meditating on one of the excerpts!"*

### *From Fr. Dennis Brown, OMV:*

*"I'm completing my personal "spiritual conversation" meetings with the diaconal candidates, and especially the ones who will be ordained in June wanted me to communicate their profound gratitude for the instruction in discernment and examen they have received during formation.*

*They all gave presentations in their parishes, and one I spoke with today gave one on "Nunc Coepi" and one of the listeners was so impressed that he got a Nunc Coepi tattoo.*

### *From a layman in diaconate formation:*

*"I had never heard of Venerable Lanteri, until I had started my formation to the permanent diaconate. I just happened across an article by Father Gallagher on Venerable Lanteri and was immediately taken by his gentleness. I prayed to him to lead me to good spiritual reading ... and it worked. I will always be grateful to him and even spoke about him at seminary where the priest had not heard about this wonderful kind soul. I definitely know that Venerable Lanteri had a hand in leading me to the right books."*