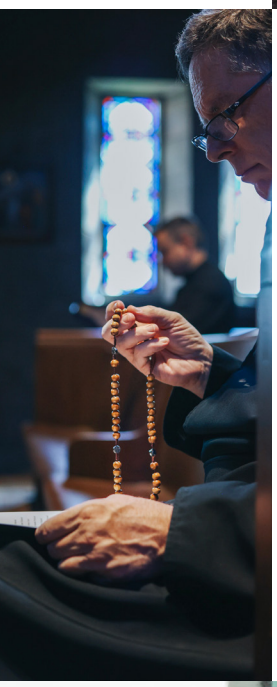
OBLATES
OF THE
VIRGIN MARY

ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER
2026



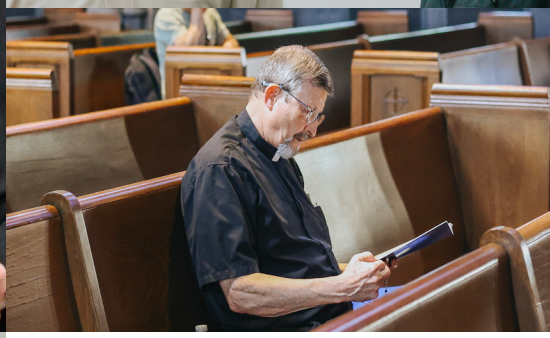


Men of Prayer *Men of* Joy









WORKING TOWARD A
REBIRTH OF SPIRITUALITY IN
TODAY'S WORLD



BICENTENNIAL EDITION
OMVUSA.ORG



FROM THE PROVINCIAL



FR. JIM WALTHER OMV
PROVINCIAL RECTOR

This summer, I went to Paris to attend a gathering of leaders from our religious order around the world, which we call the "Council of the Congregation."

While in Paris, we were asked to reflect on a letter our Rector Major, Fr. Luis Costantino, wrote to the Congregation as we continue our bicentennial celebration. Fr. Luis pointed out that you cannot celebrate fully in the present if you are holding on to hurts from the past. The truth of this hit me like a ton of bricks.

In Jesus' prayer, the "Our Father," Jesus reminds us that the forgiveness we seek from God is tied to our willingness to forgive others. Forgiveness is the key to joy.

That very day, as I was about to say the Our Father, I paused. I quieted myself before God and asked, "Who do I need to forgive today?"

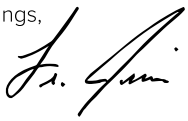
There were no major offenses that came to mind, but when I really thought about it, there were minor offenses that I had readily dismissed. The fact that I could remember them proved that I was holding on to them to some extent and needed to forgive. I whispered, "I forgive you."

Then it occurred to me that perhaps there were times during the day when I had hurt others without knowing it. I asked Jesus to show me. When I was finished, I whispered, "Please forgive me."

That day, I prayed the Our Father in a way I had never prayed it before. I was left with a smile.

In your quiet moments of prayer, please remember what Jesus taught me: "Forgiveness is the key to joy!"

Blessings,



A Gift for *Generations* to Come!

The generosity of generations before us helped make today's Oblate mission possible. A planned gift can help carry that mission forward. Explore our new planned giving resource to learn about ways you can create a lasting legacy with the Oblates.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



GIVING MADE EASY

Make your online offering today at
OMVUSA.ORG/ANNUAL-APPEAL

MAKE A DONATION

Make the most of your giving!

Your generosity can go further when you choose the giving method that's right for you. Gifts of stock, donor-advised fund grants and Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA may offer tax advantages while providing important support for the Oblates and our ministries.

REMEMBER:
WE MAY APPEAR IN CERTAIN APPS UNDER OUR LEGAL NAME:
ST. IGNATIUS PROVINCE OF THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY, INC.



Find us *on* social

- omvusa.org
- facebook.com/omvusa
- instagram.com/omvusa
- youtube.com/omvusa

Congratulations Br. Chris and Br. Miggo!

On September 12, 2026, Br. Christopher Puglia OMV and Br. Miguel Roque OMV professed their perpetual vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience as Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Please keep them in your prayers as they complete their studies in the Seminary and plan their ordinations.










OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Prayer *for the* Congregation

As translated by Fr. Luis in his Bicentennial Reflection

FR. LUIS A. COSTANTINO ÁVILA OMV
RECTOR MAJOR



Virgin Mother, preserve, increase, and make fruitful in goodness the work of your Congregation.

Loving Mother, extend your heavenly mantle over all who today glory in bearing the name of Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

Mother of Grace, send new postulants to our community; smile with maternal tenderness upon our dear novices, guide the professed in formation; sustain the fathers in the difficulties of the apostolate; may the daily work of the brothers coadjutors be gentle and humble; grant peace and eternal rest to our deceased; reward our benefactors and collaborators; and bless in particular the Rector Major.

And all of us make holy, soon holy, great saints. Amen.












HERE TO SERVE YOU

Meet the Provincial Staff

L TO R:
Fr. Paul Kallal OMV Vocation Director, **Gina Lewis** Dir. of Advancement, **Fr. James A. Walther OMV** Provincial Rector, **Amy Driscoll** Executive Assistant to the Provincial, **Antonio Battaglia** Dir. of Finance, **Giuliana Webb** Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, **Lucas Jablonski** Head of Creative Media Productions

SEMINARY UPDATE

FR. SEAN MORRIS OMV
RECTOR, OUR LADY OF GRACE SEMINARY



NEW SEMINARIANS



JACK LOVELL



NICK KELLEY



GABRIEL VARGAS

Our new academic year began on the trail. A backpacking trip in the mountains provided an opportunity to welcome our three new seminarians: Jack Lovell, Nick Kelley, and Gabriel Vargas, and begin building the fraternal bonds that are so important to community life.

One of the blessings I continue to witness is the way our formation program grows not only academically and spiritually, but fraternally. We place an increasing emphasis on helping our seminarians learn to support one another from the very beginning of their journey. The program develops a practice of being vulnerable with one another in the spirit of offering fraternal support, a habit that will sustain them throughout their priesthood.

The quality of the young men the Lord continues to send to us is another reason for hope. God is blessing the Oblates with generous men who sincerely desire to follow His call. *All of our current seminarians are moving on to the next step of their priestly formation.*

As our seminarians begin another year of formation, please keep them and all those entrusted with their formation in your daily prayers. Your prayers are an essential part of preparing the next generation of Oblates to serve the Church, and we are deeply grateful for your faithful support. ■

IN OUR MEMORIES & IN OUR HEARTS



Fr. Lawrence Darnell OMV

AUGUST 30, 1940 - APRIL 15, 2026

A model of prayer to the very end —
Fr. Larry's last holy hour in this world was
at 3 am on the morning of his passing.

Fr. Gregory Allen Staab OMV 1957-2018
Fr. Vincenzo Antolini OMV 1931-2022
Fr. David Napoleon Beauregard OMV 1937-2024
Fr. James B. Doran OMV 1956-2025

SAVE THE DATE!

OMV GALA

In support of OMV Seminarians

APRIL 24, 2027
Seaport Hotel Boston



TESTIMONY

Always There

ANDREA & BERNADETTE ADAMO

> 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 • OMV CONSTITUTIONS

Long before Andrea and Bernadette Adamo were married, someone took a picture of them together at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine in Boston.

They had only recently met through the Oblates' young adult community, and, as Bernadette remembers it, they joked that the photograph looked as though they were getting married. "We still have that picture," Andrea says. Sixteen years of marriage and three children later, the picture feels a little prophetic.

Both Andrea and Bernadette had come to St. Clement independently, looking for a community where they could take their Catholic faith seriously. Bernadette was searching for other faithful young adults, and for priests willing to support them as they grew in faith together. What she found felt genuine. "There was nothing artificial about them," she recalls. "I loved them."

Andrea was drawn to something slightly different. He laughingly describes the Oblates of the Virgin Mary as "hardcore," but his meaning is clear.

> "Their heart is fully centered on Jesus," he explains. "And I love that. Their being centered helps me stay centered."

That centeredness became important as Andrea and Bernadette began discerning a life together. During their courtship, they spent considerable time in Eucharistic Adoration at the St. Clement Shrine. Andrea remembers those hours before the Blessed Sacrament as part of the maturing of their relationship. Before their marriage, they made a retreat at St. Joseph Retreat House in Milton.

Their faith was not simply something they shared. It became the foundation on which they built their marriage. "When God is your priority, all the other things fall into place," Andrea says. For Bernadette, faith is even more elemental. "I can't even picture life without God. He's like the air we breathe."

As marriage became family life, seasons changed. Three children arrived. The family-friendly style and easy parking at the Prudential Center made the St. Francis Chapel an attractive place to stay connected to the OMV priests and spirituality.

There were also difficult seasons. Serious health complications surrounding the births of their children brought fear and uncertainty alongside tremendous gratitude. Their first son, Andrea says, was not expected to survive beyond birth. Today he is a thriving teenager. Similar challenges followed with their other children.

"Our whole childbirth journey has been a string of challenges followed by miracles," Bernadette says. Through all of them, Andrea adds, they experienced the hand of God giving them "strength, courage and patience."



THE ADAMO FAMILY PICTURED AT ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL

And through the changing seasons of their lives, the Oblates remained part of the landscape. Bernadette reaches for a musical image to describe it.

> "The Oblates are central... kind of like background music. They're always there."

Sometimes that presence has been front and center: Eucharistic Adoration, retreats, Confession, the powerful witness of the homilies, friendships with individual priests. At other times it has simply been the dependable rhythm of Sunday Mass and knowing that the doors are open.

For Bernadette, what stands out most is not any single program or moment; it is the way the Oblates are present.

She describes their "gentle presence and availability," their open-door welcome and the steady support and shepherding her family has received over the years.

"The Oblates are like that steady stream," she says. Their presence is different from some of the larger, more charismatic influences in their lives. It is quieter and more constant: care, friendship, good preaching and priests who are simply available when they are needed.

Andrea describes the same experience in fewer words: "Companionship in this earthly journey."

He also values the conviction beneath that companionship. When asked to describe the Oblate charism, Andrea points to their fidelity to the core teachings of the Church, devotion to the Holy Father and their life under the guidance of Mary—"pillars of Catholicism," he says, that resonate deeply with their family.

Over 2 decades after that first photograph at St. Clement, Andrea and Bernadette continue to choose the Oblates of the Virgin Mary as an important part of their family's life.

"We choose to come here for a reason," says Bernadette, and Andrea adds,"We attend Mass at the Church of the Oblates probably 80% of the year. We come here for Confession and for Adoration when possible."

For the Adamos, that choice and the gratitude they feel finds expression in generosity.

They take seriously the biblical call to offer God their first fruits, intentionally setting aside part of what they have received for ministries that have become especially important to their family. The Oblates of the Virgin Mary are among them.

Andrea explains their giving much as he explains the rest of their life of faith. "If you receive, you also have to give."

They have received much over the years: the Sacraments, prayer, friendship, faithful teaching, accompaniment through difficult seasons and a community that was there when their own family story first began.

Giving back is one of their ways of responding. And, as Bernadette reminds us, *God's generosity cannot be outdone.*

PASTORAL YEAR UPDATE

Right Here With You

Finding Comfort in the Uncomfortable



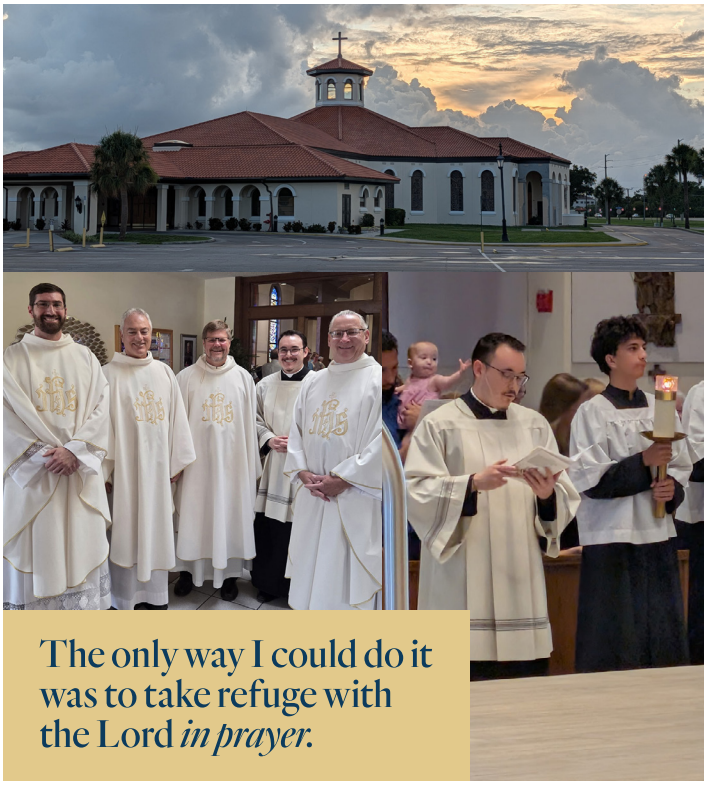
BR. ANDREW OLSON OMV

Getting assigned to the Oblate community in Florida wasn't necessarily the curveball I wanted, but it was the curveball I needed. After so many years of sitting in classrooms, interspersed with periods of ministry, I was thrilled to finally move into something more full-time, especially because I was going to be spending time working at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center.

However, I was not expecting to also be assigned to San Pedro Parish. Much of my journey in the seminary told me that parish life wasn't a good fit for me. In fact, the prospect of retreat ministry and spiritual direction was one of the primary reasons that I was first drawn to the Oblates. I found myself in a familiar place of being challenged by Jesus to surrender to Him.

My transfer down to Florida was smooth and my brothers were incredibly welcoming, but it didn't take long for me to feel like I'd been tossed into the deep end. I was asked to take on a handful of responsibilities that I didn't feel equipped for at all. So here I was, suddenly in charge of the youth and young adult ministries, among other things. All I could think was: "Lord, I can't do this! I don't have the know-how or the wherewithal to run these things." The classroom that I'd recently left was looking rather appealing again.

Father Tom encouraged me: "I'm not asking you to be anyone other than yourself. Run these groups the way Brother Andrew would run them." In all honesty, that was half the problem – I had no idea how I would do that. The only way I could do it was to take refuge with the Lord in prayer. And Jesus made it clear: *"I'll be right here with you. Don't be afraid."* I dove in and quickly discovered how much I loved it! Before I could catch my breath, I started getting calls to help with various youth and young adult events and retreats around the diocese, in addition to the work I already had at the parish and retreat center. My mornings with Jesus would always include the question: "Lord, what are we doing today?"



The only way I could do it was to take refuge with the Lord *in prayer.*

No surprise there: Jesus delivered. For all my bumbling around, the parish has been overwhelmingly good to me. *The warmth and love of the people I get to serve have been a consolation I do not deserve.* I get to enjoy a regular rotation of time at the parish and the retreat center, and I've found a rhythm that has allowed me to find a confidence and joy that I didn't know I could have. Jesus continues to teach me how to live out my Oblate identity and charism every day, especially through the opportunities where I feel the least prepared.

My first year in Florida was a series of curveballs. But they've been exactly what I've needed, because the Lord has repeatedly shown me when and how to swing. Staying in my comfort zone would not have done that for me. I cannot only say with newfound delight that parish life is a good fit for me, but that I might even fit into parish life. ■

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS BR. ANDREW GROW AS A MAN OF PRAYER, FINDING JOY IN TRUST AND SERVICE.

VOCATION UPDATE



FR. PAUL KALLAL OMV
VOCATION DIRECTOR



Dear Friends in Christ,

In early August, 55 Oblates of the Virgin Mary from the United States and the Philippines assembled in Boston for a week of honor, care, and enjoyment.

At one point during our assembly, I paused to look around the room, and with gratitude, realized our presence would not have been possible without the support of our benefactors — **the men and women reading this message who are not merely benefactors, but family.**

As Vocation Director, I also wondered "which men will be present at future assemblies?" Your love and support for the Oblates of the Virgin Mary will help answer my question and continue to bring Ven. Bruno Lanteri's vision to life, a vision that brings sanctification to his spiritual sons and the whole world.

God bless you, and thank you for being part of our Oblate family. ■