


OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY



THE Answer *to* Prayers

MATTHEW 7:7



OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY



Ask
and it will be
given to you...

FROM THE PROVINCIAL

FR. JIM WALTER OMV
PROVINCIAL RECTOR



Two years ago we made vocations the #1 priority for our entire province. We put together a committee of nine men and drafted a vocation plan for the entire province over a period of six months. The lofty goal of 10 vocations a year was agreed upon, and everyone set about doing their part to drum up vocations.

The first step was to pray and ask God for the grace of 10 vocations a year. We created the St. Joseph Society to help pray for vocations, and so many of you now join us in daily prayer!

The first year we got two new vocations which was not disappointing because plans usually take five years to be realized. This year, we welcome two new vocations to Our

Lady of Grace Seminary in Boston (Zach and Xavier). Three men from Nigeria entered our seminary for advanced studies in Manila, and four men from Sri Lanka entered our seminary as aspirants in Cebu in the Philippines.

On top of that, out of the blue, a former Oblate whose path separated him from us thirty years ago asked if he could rejoin. He will arrive at the end of February to enter community life.

The goal was 10 new vocations a year. This year we have 10 men entering the Oblates of the Virgin Mary from places and circumstances I never imagined!

It's funny how God answers our prayers, so keep praying and keep looking for God to answer prayers in unexpected ways.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Know that you have ours. ■

Blessings,



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SEMINARIAN BENEFIT

Save *the* Date!



**APRIL 26, 2025
SEAPORT HOTEL
BOSTON**

2025
**OMV
GALA**

“What a wonderful time we had! The Gala was beautiful and amazing all at the same time. We are looking forward to next year.”

**LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
BILL & MARGARET**



GEORGE MARTELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Seek and you will find...

TESTIMONY

God answered my prayers by guiding me to the Oblates of the Virgin Mary

CAROLYN LYON
SUPPORTER



I had lost access to daily Mass and prayer, spiritual direction, and church fellowship all in the wake of Covid. The loss of three communities of faith was immense for me. As I persevered in prayer, God began to restore these gifts one-by-one through the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

I first discovered the podcasts of Father Timothy Gallagher OMV concerning the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and his teaching on discernment. Through this initial inquiry, I became familiar with the timeless counsels of OMV Founder, Venerable Bruno Lanteri.

With the help of Father Timothy, I sought a spiritual director from one of the OMV retreat houses in Boston and Florida. Through prayer, I was led to St. Joseph Retreat House in Milton, Massachusetts, where I was graciously received by Father Craig MacMahon OMV for monthly spiritual direction.

Father Craig acquainted me with the OMV website and its many helpful resources, one of which is the livestream of daily Mass from St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine. The reverent priests who say this Mass always provide instructive and stimulating homilies that

profoundly nurture me. One such priest is Father Peter Grover OMV whose online work includes a series on the Rosary that became a daily gift to me.

Additionally, God has helped me through an online course offered by Father Shawn Monahan OMV entitled *The Path to Healing Our Broken Hearts*. I had many questions about interior healing after a personal experience during Eucharistic Adoration. I found within his teachings the answers to my heart's questions. May God be praised as myself and others receive healing from this teaching!

I am abundantly grateful to God for these gifts and for the community of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. I look forward to each day with all of the encouragement, guidance, and inspiration they provide. ■



*Knock
and the door
will be opened
to you...*

HERE TO SERVE YOU

Meet the Provincial Staff



L to R

BACK ROW ROSE CUMMINGS, FR. JIM WALTHER OMV, CHRIS KELLEY, LUCAS JABLONSKI
FRONT ROW AMY GELLER, GINA LEWIS, JOSEPH KREMER

The St. Ignatius Province welcomes Amy Geller as Assistant to the Provincial, Lucas Jablonski as Videographer, and Joseph Kremer as Advancement Associate. They join veteran staff members Rose Cummings, Director of Finance; Chris Kelley, Chief of Communications; and Gina Lewis, Director of Advancement, in facilitating Provincial Rector Fr. Jim Walther's direction of the Province. ■

PRIESTHOOD REFLECTION

FR. JONATHON HANK OMV
OBLATE PRIEST



As I settle into my new identity as a priest, and my new assignment at Holy Ghost, I wanted to share with all of you a little of what's been on my heart.

The two weeks surrounding my ordination were quite intense, leading me through something of an emotional rollercoaster. Before I left for California, Fr. John Paul OMV and I gave last rites to my grandmother, Lucy Hank; she passed away six days later, and I celebrated the funeral Mass after returning to Denver. During this same span of time, I was preparing for my Ordination, enjoying some leisure time with family and friends in the wonderful California weather, receiving the gift of the priesthood in a beautiful and moving liturgy, offering numerous first blessings, and hearing countless congratulations. Since returning to Holy Ghost, I've had the consolations of celebrating Masses and of hearing confessions, as well as the challenge of beginning to figure out what a parochial vicar is actually supposed to do.

Sorrow, joy, sorrow, joy... the cycle of the priest's life has been tiring, but incredibly rewarding. It reminds me of the words of Venerable Fulton Sheen: *"The priest is not his own."* No one becomes a priest for his own sake, but rather for the sake of those he will eventually serve. The priest is called to be bread, to be himself the sacrifice that he celebrates whenever he says the words: *This is my body; this is my blood.*

There is a gift here, a total self-gift. It is a gift that encompasses all the joys and sorrows, all the challenges and consolations of life, and chooses to offer itself as metaphorical food.

I have experienced this in a particular way in the sacrament of Reconciliation, feeling the fire of mercy radiating from Jesus's heart as I pronounce the words of absolution over each penitent. I have also been able to experience the Mass in a new way, beginning with the Penitential Act, in which I recognize the vast difference between my own weakness and the greatness of what the Lord is doing through me as I consecrate the Eucharist.

To be honest, all this is still a little frightening and overwhelming. As a "baby priest" (as many have taken to calling me) there is still so much I haven't experienced of this vocation: so much joy, so much sorrow, so many failures, so many victories. I don't know all of what my "Yes" will entail. But I desire, with the help of God, to be food: to live that total generosity of spirit, in imitation of Jesus's Eucharistic Heart.

Thank you for all your support and prayers over these last several years as I have been preparing for priestly ordination. Please pray for me for the grace to live out this vocation to the full, and I will be praying for all of you! ■

In Christ,

Fr. Jonathon Hank, OMV



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FR. JONATHON'S FIRST MASS



© THERESE VASQUEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations Br. Andrew!

BR. ANDREW OLSON OMV (pictured here with his spiritual director, Fr. Dan Barron OMV) made his first profession of vows on Aug 5, 2024 during a ceremony at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine in Boston, Massachusetts.



PRIESTHOOD REFLECTION

FR. JORGE SANCHEZ OMV
OBLATE PRIEST



*To become a father,
a man must first be formed
by other fathers.*

This insightful quote from my spiritual director perfectly captures the essence of my formation journey as an Oblate of the Virgin Mary. The path to priesthood has been profoundly shaped by the guidance and example of OMV spiritual fathers who have walked this journey before me.

Throughout my formation, I've been blessed with the mentorship and wisdom of experienced OMV priests who have dedicated their lives to serving God and His people. Their unwavering faith, compassion, and dedication to the mission of the Church have been invaluable lessons. These spiritual fathers have not only taught me through their words but have also shown me, through their actions, what it means to live out the priestly vocation with integrity and love.

One of the most significant influences during this time has been learning about our founder, Venerable Bruno Lanteri. His inspiring words,

especially "Nunc Coepi" ("Now I begin"), have been a constant reminder of the need for renewal and perseverance in my spiritual life. This call to start anew, regardless of past struggles, resonates deeply with my formation journey — always striving to grow closer to God and to serve others with a renewed heart.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, our benefactors, who have supported me both materially and spiritually. Your generosity has provided the essential resources needed for my formation. More importantly, your prayers and spiritual support have been a cornerstone of strength and encouragement.

Your contributions have not only facilitated my formation but have also supported the broader mission of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Together, we work to spread the message of hope and renewal, inspired by the teachings of Venerable Lanteri and the spiritual fathers who guide us.

As I embark on my priestly ministry, I carry with me the lessons learned from these spiritual fathers and the deep gratitude for the support from all of you. ■

May God bless you.

Thank you for being a crucial part of this journey. Your kindness and prayers have left a lasting impact, not only on me but on our entire OMV family.

— FR. JORGE



FR. JORGE'S FIRST MASS



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PHILIPPINES VOCATION UPDATE

Opening Doors To A New Generation

Soon after we opened our first formation house in the Philippines, our seminary was bursting at the seams.

Today, the OMVs have two locations in the Philippines: Antipolo, in the North (just outside Metro Manila) and Cebu in the Central Islands. Despite minor setbacks and growing pains of quick expansion, things were going well. Then Covid hit...

Since then, it seems that every diocese and religious community in Christendom lost vocation prospects.

In the aftermath, we recognized an even bigger challenge: the academic readiness of

candidates - especially their English language skills. Sadly, fewer and fewer candidates have the necessary ability to read, write, take notes, and do research in English at a college level. With the decline in vocations and the real need for English language skills, we've expanded our mission in the Philippines to include pre-seminary education.

For the first time, we're offering an Aspirancy Program. Men with or without college experience as well as those eager for college preparation with an eye toward seminary admission can come and live in community, study fundamental academic topics (especially English), learn the life of prayer, and take their first courses in Theology, Church History, Spirituality and Scripture.

This shift is timely and advantageous for us and the Church. More than ever men and women desirous of a vocation are coming from Southeast Asia to the Philippines. In fact, it's said that regarding religious studies, Manila is the "Rome of the East."

We're about to enter another academic year, and God's lavish providence has gifted

us with seven new candidates between our two houses of formation. That's a real boon to our newly adopted Aspirancy Program.

As we labor for the future, we celebrate our growth today! Soon we will ordain two new priests from our formation program here. In December, Provincial Rector Father Jim Walther OMV and Vocation Director Father Paul Kallal OMV will join us in the Philippines for the priestly ordination of Dcn. Mannie Martinez Beltran OMV and Dcn. Jake Inot Villorejo OMV!

Please keep us in your prayers, especially Dcn. Mannie and Dcn. Jake as they begin their priestly ministry. ■

Blessings,
The OMV Vocation Team in Cebu



OBLATES ON THE MOVE

Oblates Answering Prayers Around The World



St. Mary's Parish
Alton, Illinois

FR. JORGE SANCHEZ OMV begins his first assignment as parochial vicar of St. Mary's following his priestly ordination in July. Fr. Jorge is pleased to return to St. Mary's where he served during his pastoral year as seminarian.



FR. JOHN WYKES OMV returns to the Alton community following five years as communications director in Rome and an interim assignment at St. Francis Chapel in Boston.



St. Francis Chapel
Boston, Massachusetts

FR. JEREMY PAULIN OMV, former Vocation Director and experienced Pastor, accepts the role of director of St. Francis Chapel. He is joined by **FR. ANDREW HUHTANEN OMV** who devoted the last nine years to ministry at the Lanteri Center, and Holy Ghost Parish in Denver, Colorado.



Holy Ghost Parish
Denver, Colorado

FR. JONATHON HANK OMV accepts his first priestly assignment as parochial vicar of Holy Ghost Church following his ordination in July. Fr. Jonathon is glad to return to Holy Ghost where he served during his pastoral year as seminarian.



St. Peter Chanel
Hawaiian Gardens, California

St. Peter Chanel welcomes **BR. CHRIS PUGLIA OMV** for a year of pastoral ministry. The pastoral year is a unique, practical component of Oblate seminarian formation which prepares Brothers for pastoral and community life.



San Pedro Parish
North Port, Florida

BR. MIGUEL "MIGGO" ROQUE OMV joins San Pedro Parish for a year of pastoral ministry. Following their pastoral year, Br. Miggo and Br. Chris will resume their studies in Theology at the seminary in Boston.



GRATEFUL GOODBYES

We extend a heartfelt farewell to our brother Oblates, **FR. ISAAC ABU OMV** and **FR. BEN UNACHUKWU OMV**, who both returned to Nigeria over the summer. We are grateful for their service to the St. Francis Chapel and St. Mary's Parish communities. We continue to hold them in our prayers and wish them all the best!



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

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

Open The Door



FR. TOM CARZON OMV
VICE RECTOR MAJOR



Venerable Bruno Lanteri, Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, reminds us that it's important for us not to think of God and measure God by our measure, but to think of God and measure God by the way he truly is. God is continually appealing to our hearts.

You know that picture of Jesus knocking at the door? It's a picture of Jesus standing and knocking at a door, and there's no handle on the outside. It's a beautiful picture that tells us that the door to your heart, the door to my heart is in our hand not in God's hand.

God is continually approaching us, speaking to us, appealing to us, knocking

on the door of our hearts, but it's up to you and to me to turn the handle from inside and allow God in.

If we measure God by our measure, we might think, "God must be frustrated with me. God must be done with me. All hope is lost." Thanks be to God that God is not us!

God never gives up. God never ceases to knock on the door of our hearts, and that means in every moment of every day and in every circumstance, you and I have the opportunity just to open the door of our heart.

All the good that God has created is at our disposal, and if only we open our hearts to him, all of that good can begin to have its effect in us.

Let's pray for one another. Let's pray for our nation. Let's pray for our civil leaders and leaders of all nations that we might know God's goodness, persistence, and patience knocking on the door of our hearts and let God's Word enter in. ■

EXCERPT FROM OPEN THE DOOR | HOMILY: FATHER THOMAS CARZON OMV UPLOADED BY THE CATHOLIC TV NETWORK, FEB 15, 2021

