

OBLATE CONNECTIONS

February 2022 | Nº53

**NOBODY SHOULD
EVER DIE WITHOUT
BEING LOVED**

**KILBURN
EMERGES FROM
LOCKDOWN**

**THE
PRINCE
OF LIES**



*Missionary Oblates
– Always Close to the People*

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FREE
PLEASE TAKE ONE

CONNECTIONS

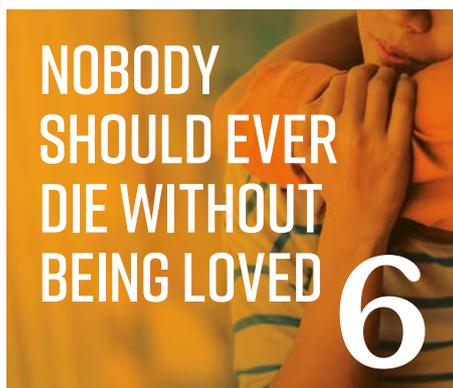
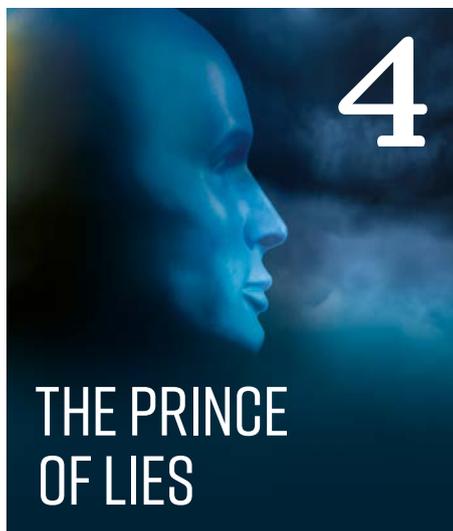
Welcome to our first issue of Oblate Connections for 2022. This is the time of year when we begin to see the signs of new life beginning to appear all around us. At our retreat centre in Crewe where I live the snowdrops and the daffodils abound. These are all hopeful signs as we continue to journey towards what will hopefully be the beginning of the end of the pandemic. These signs of new life come at a time when many are stressed not only by the ongoing impact of the pandemic but also by the every increasing cost of living and simply keeping food on the table and the lights turned on. Therefore, as we move forward we are invited not to lose sight of those members of our communities who continue to struggle and who are vulnerable.

The recent feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was also the World Day of the Sick. The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father's love, even when they turn away from him.

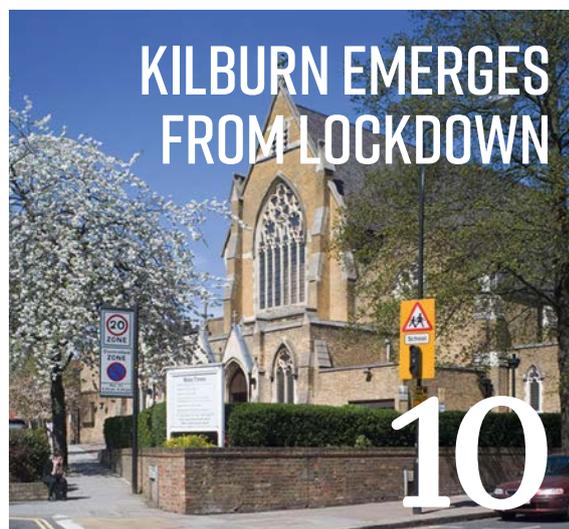
Mercy is God's name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God's very nature. In his message for the feast Pope Francis Pope Francis continues, "I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me" (Mt 25:36)."

We will shortly begin our annual Lenten journey towards the celebration of Easter. May this journey be a time of hope for us all and may Jesus, who is the supreme witness of the Father's merciful love, help us pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick, of the poor and all who are struggling at this time.

- Fr. Lorcán O'Reilly OMI



"We must lose no opportunity to let people see how urgent are the needs of the Church and the world and come to know the way in which our Congregation responds to those needs. We will also pray that the Lord send labourers into his harvest."



"People shared their pain at not having access to the church and their sheer joy as they were allowed to gradually return to the church and reconnect with the faith community after so long."



A word from Fr. Oliver Barry, OMI

A new year has begun. It promises to be a year full of challenges. As we hopefully emerge from the experience of the pandemic, we face a changed reality. As Missionaries we continue to proclaim the Gospel with confidence and in a way appropriate to our time. During the coming year we follow the Synodal Path being followed by the Universal Church. In the words of Pope Francis this time is a time to “encounter, listen and discern”. ...If we seek to proclaim the Good News, we must live it. That means accepting one another, respecting one another, encountering, listening to and discerning with one another. A tall order!...Scripture tells us: “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:3,5

- Fr. Oliver Barry OMI,
Province Leader

“If we seek to proclaim the Good News, we must live it.”



THE INTERNATIONAL OBLATE CONGRESS

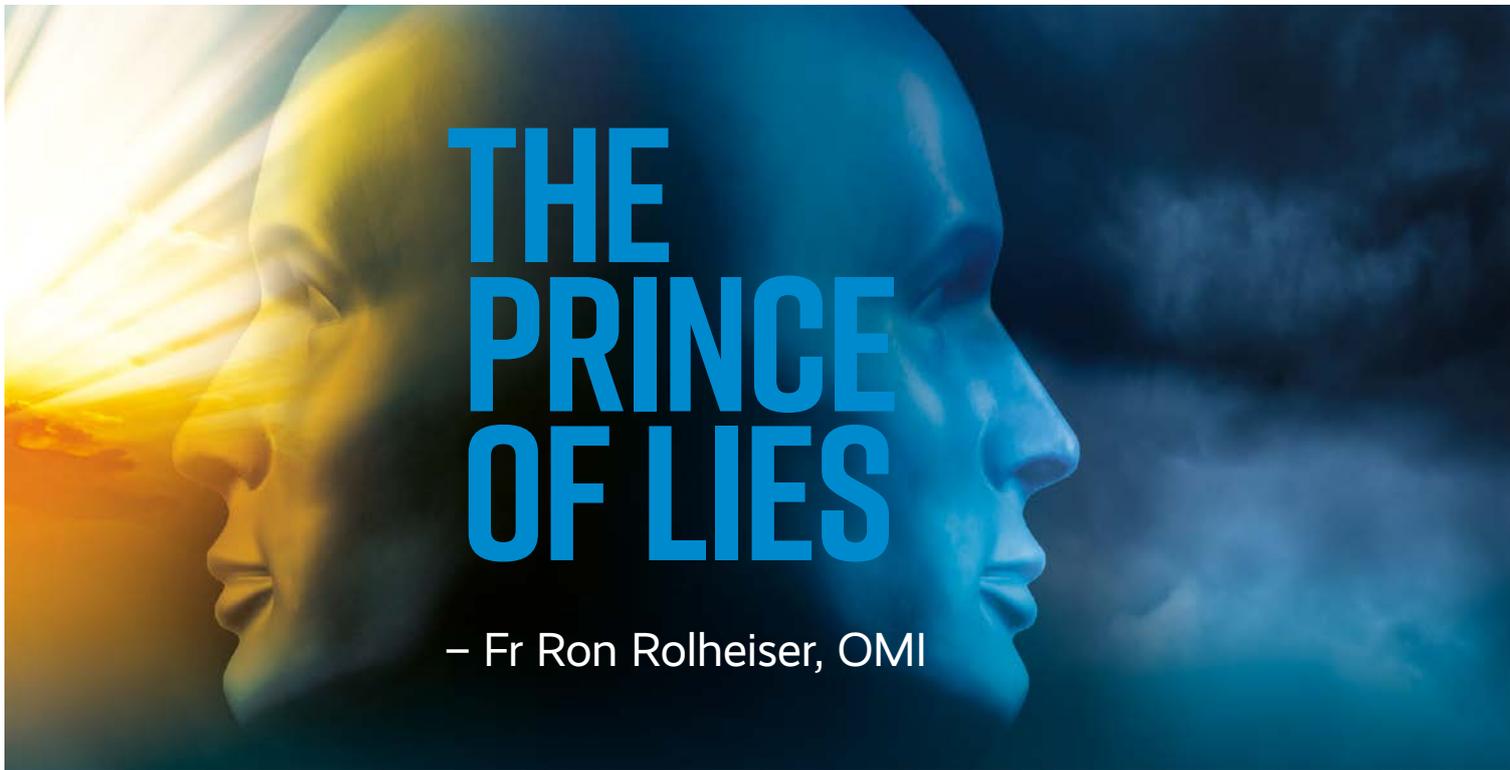
“The Congress is about you as lay associates and it is your voice that matters.”



FROM THE ARCHIVES



LOURDES 2022



THE PRINCE OF LIES

– Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Looking at our world today, what frightens and unsettles me more than the threat of the Covid virus, more than the growing inequality between the rich and the poor, more than the dangers of climate change, and even more than the bitter hatred that now separates us from each other, is our loss of any sense of truth, our facile denial of whatever truths we judge to be inconvenient, and our slogans of “fake news”, “alternate facts”, and phantom conspiracies. Social media, for all the good it has brought, has also created a platform for anyone to make up his or her own truth and then work at eroding the truths that bind us together and anchor our sanity. We now live in a world where two plus two often no longer equals four. This plays on our very sanity and has created as certain social insanity. The truths which anchor our common life are becoming unmoored.

This is evil, clearly, and Jesus alerts us to that by telling us that Satan is preeminently the Prince of Lies. Lying is the ultimate spiritual, moral, and psychological danger. It lies at the root of what Jesus calls the “unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit”. What’s this sin and why is it unforgivable?

Here’s the context within which Jesus warns us about this sin: He had just cast out a demon. The religious leaders of the time believed as a dogma in their faith that only someone who came from God could cast out a demon. Jesus had just cast out a demon, but their hatred of him made this a very inconvenient truth for them to swallow. So they chose to deny what they knew to be true, to deny reality. They chose to lie, affirming (even as they knew better) that Jesus had done it by the power of Beelzebub. Initially Jesus

tried to point out the illogic of their position, but they persisted. It’s then that he issued his warning about the unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit. At that time he’s not accusing them of committing that sin, but he’s warning them that the path they are on, if not corrected, can lead to that sin. In essence, he’s saying this: if we tell a lie long enough, eventually we will believe it and this so warps our conscience that we begin to see truth as falsehood and falsehood as truth. The sin then becomes unforgivable because we no longer want to be forgiven nor indeed will accept forgiveness. God is willing to forgive the sin but we are unwilling to accept forgiveness because we see sin as good and goodness as sin. Why would we want forgiveness?

It’s possible to end up in this state, a state wherein we judge the gifts of the Holy Spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, endurance, fidelity, mildness, and chastity) as false, as being against life, as a malevolent naiveté. And the first step in moving towards this condition is lying, refusing to acknowledge the truth. The subsequent steps also are lying, that is, the continued refusal to accept the truth so that eventually we believe our own lies and we see them as the truth and the truth as a lie. Bluntly put, that’s what constitutes hell.

Hell isn’t a place where one is sorrowful, repentant, and begging God for just one more chance to make things right. Nor is hell ever a nasty surprise waiting for an essentially honest person. If there’s anyone in hell, that person is there in arrogance, pitying people in heaven, seeing heaven as hell, darkness as light, falsehood as truth, evil as goodness, hatred as love, empathy as weakness, arrogance as strength, sanity as insanity, and God as the devil.



“Our personal sanity and our social sanity depend upon the truth, upon us acknowledging the truth, upon us telling the truth.”

One of the central lessons in the gospels is this: lying is dangerous, the most dangerous of all sins. And this doesn't just play out in terms of our relationship with God and the Holy Spirit. When we lie we're not only playing fast and loose with God, we're also playing fast and loose with our own sanity. Our sanity is contingent on what classical theology terms the "Oneness" of God. What this means in lay terms is that God is consistent. There are no contradictions inside of God and because of that, reality can also be trusted to be consistent.

Our sanity depends on that trust. For instance, should we ever arrive at a day where two plus two no longer equals four, then the very underpinnings of our sanity will be gone; we'll literally be unmoored. Our personal sanity and our social sanity depend upon the truth, upon us acknowledging the truth, upon us telling the truth, and upon two plus two forever equaling four.

Martin Luther once said: sin boldly! He meant a lot of things by that, but one thing he certainly did mean is that the ultimate spiritual and moral danger is to cover our weaknesses with lies because Satan is the Prince of Lies!

Sunday Reflections



Each week a reflection on the Sunday Readings is published on our website: oblates.ie

These reflections are prepared by Fr Brian Maher OMI who writes: "A Gospel reflection is no more than one person's response to the Gospel. We can each respond in our own way and from our own situation."

If you like to receive the reflection please sign up online or email communications@oblates.ie

If you have any comments, questions or thoughts on the weekly scripture reflection, please feel welcome to email Fr.Brian at b.maher@oblates.ie

NOBODY SHOULD EVER DIE WITHOUT BEING LOVED



A few years ago Fr. Vincenzo Bordo, OMI was visiting his beloved homeless friends on the streets of Seongnam, South Korea. A man approached him with an unusual request.

The man didn't ask Fr. Vincenzo for some food or clothes. Instead, he asked the priest for his business card. The man explained that he had no family or friends, and wanted Fr. Vincenzo's business card in case something ever happened to him.

Recently, Fr. Vincenzo received a call from the police. They had discovered a homeless man frozen to death. There was no way to identify the man. He had no possessions, except for Fr. Vincenzo's business card in his pocket.

"I went to the hospital and checked my friend's face at the body archives. Yes, this was someone I knew," said Fr. Vincenzo. "I gave a prayer for my friend who was part of our family. There was nobody else. My heart hurt so much that tears kept flowing from my eyes."

Devastated that someone would die alone, Fr. Vincenzo vowed that any future unknown homeless people would be buried with love and dignity. So he told the police to contact him and his staff at Anna's House whenever someone dies alone.

"Now if an unknown homeless person dies in Seongnam, I along with my staff go and have a funeral for this person," said Fr. Vincenzo.

"Our homeless friends live hard lives and when they die they are often alone with nobody there to love them. They are filled with pain and loneliness. Nobody should ever die without being loved."

Providing funerals for the forgotten is just part of an extensive homeless ministry that Fr. Vincenzo has overseen in Korea for the past 28 years.



"I gave a prayer for my friend who was part of our family. There was nobody else."



“We do not see the people who come to Anna’s House as poor people, we see them as human beings,” said Fr. Vincenzo. “We call them family and we tell them ‘I love you.’”



When he arrived in Korea as a young priest from Italy, Fr. Vincenzo was surprised to see the urban poor living in shantytowns on the outskirts of Seoul. So he created Anna’s House, a soup kitchen to provide food to those living on the streets.

Over time, Anna’s House has grown to become the largest agency in Korea helping the homeless. Every day more than 550 meals are distributed to the poorest of the poor. Anna’s House also includes a shelter for runaway teenagers.

“We do not see the people who come to Anna’s House as poor people, we see them as human beings,” said Fr. Vincenzo. “We call them family and we tell them ‘I love you.’”



When the Covid-19 pandemic began, the dining facilities at Anna’s House had to be closed. So Fr. Vincenzo and his team began to distribute hundreds of lunch boxes every day to people living on the streets, along with face masks and other safety equipment.

Covid-19 is just the latest roadblock placed before Fr. Vincenzo and his fellow missionaries. But they are undeterred, knowing they have an army of volunteers and supporters from around the world committed to their ministry.

“I spend many sleepless nights trying to figure out what we can do and how to do it,” said Fr. Vincenzo. “So I ask for your prayers. We cannot abandon and turn our backs on these poor brothers and sisters in times of their greatest need.”

– First published on omiusa.org





Oblates work in over 60 countries around the world. Fr Irvin Morastil has recently been appointed Vocations Director and in this article he shares with us his hopes for this mission.

Time and time again, God never ceases to choose men and women to a particular role and service in the Church. And each of us are encouraged to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.” (Ephesians 4:1)

Vocations Ministry is a ministry of accompanying young people to discover and discern their own vocation and calling in life. “Young people need to be challenged to meet the high ideals of a radical following of Christ and the profound demands of holiness, when discerning a vocation which is beyond them and which perhaps goes beyond the initial ideas which attracted them to enter a particular Institute,” (no. 18, Starting Afresh from Christ: A Renewed Commitment to Consecrated Life in the Third Millenium).

With the unfortunate decline in terms of the number of young people considering priesthood and religious life today, we cannot help but also be carried away by a sense of indifference and hopelessness. But as people of hope and faith, we need to keep trying and explore every possible means and ways to encourage and animate vocations especially among our young people.



Fr. Bernie Colgan, OMI, Brazil

My hope and prayer is that, each of us will see the value of our own daily witnesses as a way of promoting vocations to every young person we encounter. Our own joyful living out and witnessing of the Gospel is a source of inspiration for every young person we encounter. By their encounter with us, they too may consider becoming an Oblate. May each one of us consciously become Vocation promoters and animators. May each of us take the initiative to encourage young people to consider the possibility of becoming Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



Fr. Leo Philomin, OMI, Ireland

“We will also pray that the Lord send labourers into his harvest.”



Fr. Charlie Burrows, OMI, Indonesia

We can draw inspiration from the wisdom of the Oblate Constitutions and Rules: “Jesus never ceases to call people to follow him and to proclaim the Kingdom. Some are drawn to answer that call through the joy and generosity of our lives. We must lose no opportunity to let people see how urgent are the needs of the Church and the world and come to know the way in which our Congregation responds to those needs. We will also pray that the Lord send labourers into his harvest.” (C52)

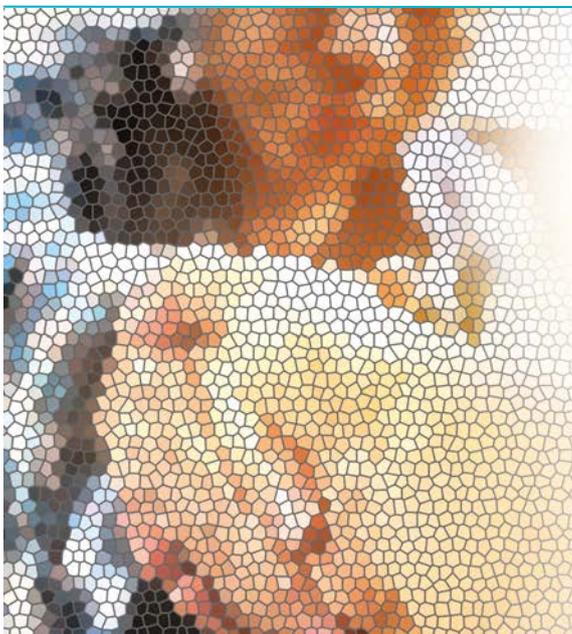
When given the opportunity many young people discover the person of Jesus and feel the attraction of his message. Following this encounter they begin to exercise their gifts for leadership and ministry. It is the responsibility of all God’s people to help the young people discover their vocation and to accompany them on their spiritual journey.

Let us all in our own simple and little ways, be instruments of animating and leading young people to God.

– Irvin Morastil, OMI



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Holy Father, we come to you because Jesus asked us to pray that you send workers into your harvest.

Therefore, send us generous young people, passionate for Jesus, willing to make of their whole life a total oblation to you, to become close to the poorest and most abandoned, and to proclaim the Gospel.

May they burn with the same fire that you enkindled in St. Eugene de Mazenod; may they come to be part of his family and with all the Oblates, may they continue the work of Redemption.

Mary Immaculate, who first gave Jesus to the world, be with us as we pray. Amen.

Kilburn Emerges From Lockdown



On March 23rd 2020 the UK went into Lock-down. It was uncharted territory for all of us. We had no idea how long this period would last. It was a frightening experience. Kilburn is a very busy parish and I suppose the question that the Parish Team were asking themselves was, "What are we going to do"? All our sacramental programmes were put on hold and our well-prepared parish plans were abandoned. Churches were closed and we had to re think how we could continue to offer support to parishioners but in a new way. We had to think outside the box. With the help of two of our young adults, Sinead and Josh, we set about buying a camera and recording different services. This proved challenging at the beginning, but we got used to it.

We subsequently updated our camera equipment and we took to recording and being recorded like a duck to water. There is no denying that the last 22 months have taken its toll on us all. It was very difficult leading funerals of parishioners at the graveside or the crematorium without them having access to the church that they had worshipped in for years. These scars will take a long time to heal.



During the past number of months, we have been invited to participate in the Synod by Pope Francis. He recognises that any change which will happen in the church will only come about from the grass roots. What has been very interesting in this process is having the opportunity to listen to one another's experience of being church during lockdown. People shared their pain at not having access to the church and their sheer joy as they were allowed to gradually return to the church and reconnect with the faith community after so long. It was a very humbling experience to hear people share these experiences. From these meetings we have a number of new initiatives for the months ahead.

Since the restrictions have been lifted gradually we have experienced small seeds of new life in the community

Our Young At Heart Club has re-opened. During the Lockdown 7 members of our club died, so when we eventually came back together our first week was spent in remembering our deceased friends in our Eucharist. This was a very moving experience. We have since gone from strength to strength. We are back to a weekly gathering and are planning a weekend trip to Chester.





“People shared their pain at not having access to the church and their sheer joy as they were allowed to gradually return to the church and reconnect with the faith community after so long.”

We held introductory meetings for parents of young people for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. These programmes have started well. We have 80 children in our Eucharistic Programme and 54 teenagers in our Confirmation Programme. When we gather for our monthly Mass with each group it is heart warming to see them coming to the Food Bank Basket and depositing their contribution to helping those on the margins of our community.

Last week we decided to kick start our RCIA Programme of adults who wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. We have 10 adults in the group from various places around the globe. We hope to begin our Lenten Programme of Lectio Divina and a week of Guided Prayer. These small beginnings are evidence of the presence of the Spirit in our community. Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you.

– Terry Murray, OMI

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES IN CREWE

Lent Day Retreat

30th March Suggested donation £20

Enrich your Lenten journey through the transformative embrace of scripture, reflection, adoration and prayer.

Palm Sunday Weekend

8th–10th April Suggested donation £160

As one of the most important days in the Christian calendar, Palm Sunday is a time when we reflect on the final week of Jesus’ earthly ministry – from his entry into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to his final day on earth.

Celebrate Easter

14th–17th April Suggested donation £225

This is an opportunity for you to discover the Sacred “Three Days” (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) leading up to Easter.



For Information or Booking

Contact Rachel: +44 01270 568653 or email: rachel.challoner@oblateretreatcentre.org.uk

www.orc-crewe.org

Download a booking form or book online.



Embracing Trust with a Woman’s Heart

6th–8th May Suggested donation £160.00

Weekend Retreat for Women

So many things are coming at us, so much expected of us, where is God’s invitation in all of this frenzy? As women, God invites us to trust in the deepest reality, that we are loved beyond imagination and to trust God at work in our spiritual hungers and longings.

Icon Workshop

29th June–3rd July Suggested donation £320.00

There is an increasing interest in the immense spiritual potential of art in our society as symbols and images unite people and enhance spiritual connectedness and communication. This retreat will offer reflections that inform, inspire and invite interested ‘seekers’ and faithful on a journey through the image and beauty of the icon.



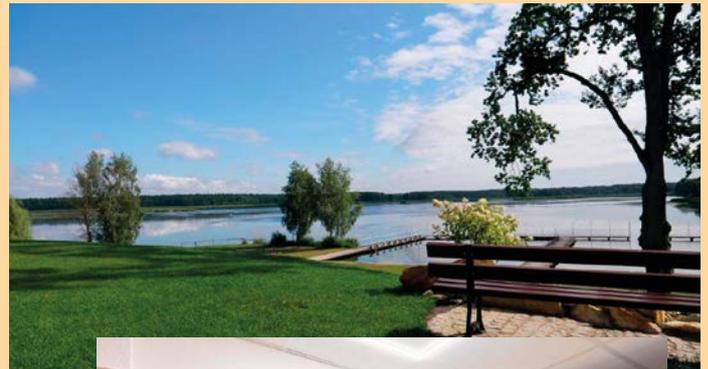
LAY CONGRESS 2022

What does it mean to be a lay person in the Church today? Is it about what I am not called to be (e.g., priest or religious), or perhaps, it is about discerning what I am called to be, how I am called, uniquely, to be a Christian, a Catholic, in this world of ours? By our baptism we have all been given a vocation. For some, it is to be called to the priesthood or religious life and we are grateful to those who have listened to, and responded to, that call. But what about the rest of us?

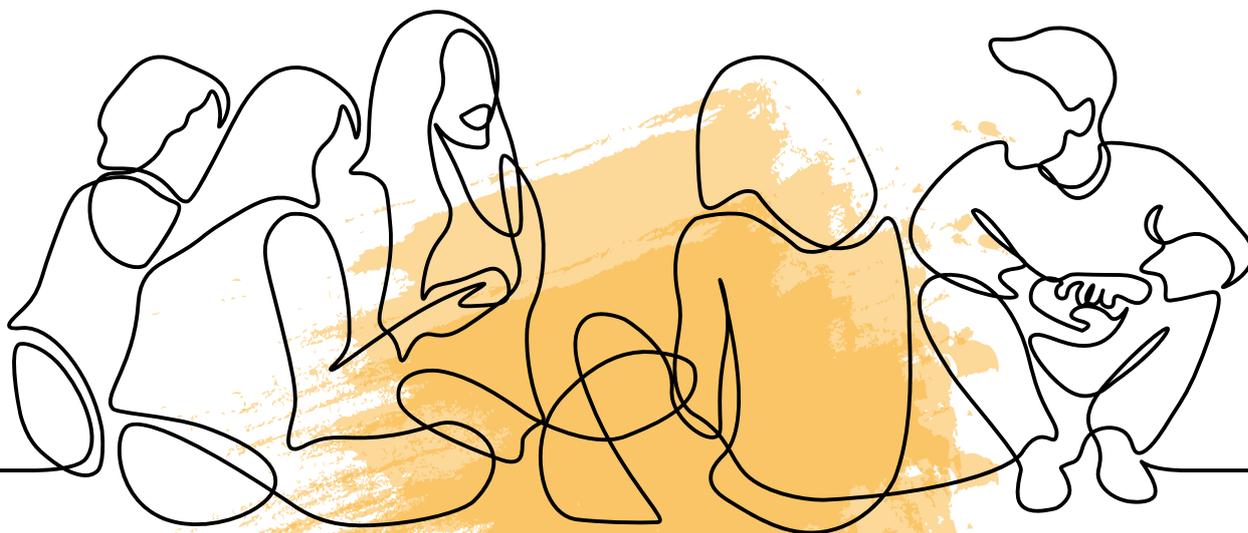
Sometimes, it is easy to forget that we, lay persons, have received a calling in our lives. In earlier years, the call to the vocation of the lay was not one that was foremost in Church thinking but that is no longer true today.

For many years, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate have actively encouraged and supported the role of lay people to enable the congregation to fulfil its missionary call. Indeed, it has been said that, unlike many other religious congregations and especially male religious congregations, it would be difficult to imagine any successful Oblate missionary activity today that does not have a very active lay component.

At the end of May this year, the Oblates will hold their second worldwide Oblate Lay Associations Congress (OLAC2022). This will bring together lay people from all over the globe who are part of the Oblate family by virtue of their engagement with the mission of the Oblates in the countries in which they live.



It can be in a parish, youth activities, or outreach to the poor, homeless, and abandoned in society. It might be because of participation in an activity such as the Lourdes pilgrimage. For the Oblate family throughout Europe, about one hundred people will gather in a place called Kokotek in Poland and from there, link up with the centre of the Congress in Rome which in turn, will connect with Oblate people from all around the world in their home places.



“The Congress is about you as lay associates and it is your voice that matters.”

What surprises lay people sometimes, can be when they find themselves described as ‘Oblate people’ or ‘members of the Oblate family.’ But that is what we are; we are participants in the life of the Oblate congregation. We share in the charism, the gifts, that the Oblates bring to the world and going further, it is frequently that these gifts are brought to the world through those lay people associated with the Oblates. It is a mission we share and very often the mission cannot be completed without it being a shared mission of professed and lay Oblates. Indeed, even if we don’t think about it every day, it could be said that this is part of our calling of how we serve the Church.

The Provincial, Fr Oliver Barry OMI has asked four people to form the core delegate team that will travel to Poland in May to represent this Anglo-Irish Province. These four are Fr Brian Maher OMI (Partners in Mission, London), Pauline Thomas (Anglesey in North Wales), Kirk Jacob (Partners in Mission, London), and this author, one of the leadership team of the Lourdes pilgrimage and living in Ireland. In the weeks ahead, others will be invited to join this team, bringing it to around twelve in total. Mary Tyrrell, a well known member of the Oblate family, is a member of the Central Working Team that is arranging the worldwide event.

From now through to the end of April, you should expect to hear more references to OLAC2022. And not just hear about! If those representing this diverse Province are to be truly representative of lay people from all of the centres of Oblate mission, then it is hugely important that we hear from you. Now is not the time

to be silent! The Church, and the Oblates, need to hear the voice of lay people, most especially, lay people whose lives are linked in whatever way to the Oblates and the Oblate mission.

The organising team for the worldwide event has asked us to consider a number of questions to assist in understanding the reality of lay life with the Oblates. The delegate team has refined these questions and in the coming weeks and months, we will seek to obtain your input and feedback. You will be invited to do this either online through a survey that you can complete on your laptop or your phone, or for those who would prefer, a paper-copy will be available simultaneously. Once these have been completed (the end-date is March 6), the team will review the results with the goal of having a Zoom gathering in early April for a final feedback session before completing our preparation for Poland.

What to do now? The Congress is about you as lay associates and it is your voice that matters. If you haven’t already been invited to share your views on the questions, then please respond when you get that invitation whether it is online or in person. Watch out for the invitation! If you have any questions or comments, then please get in touch by emailing us at olac2022@oblates.ie.

We will have more news and more information as we get closer to the dates. For now, save the dates – May 27 thru May 29 and listen out for more information about the opportunities for your local participation.

– Gerard Bennett

The 'Irish' Lourdes Grotto

The Oblate Community in Ireland and Britain has a long connection with the Lourdes Shrine. Since the late 19th century pilgrimages to Lourdes have been a regular feature in our annual calendar excepting during WWI and WWII and the last two years of the Covid pandemic...

Fr. William Ring, O.M.I., led the first Irish Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The group, consisting of 24 pilgrims, travelled from Dublin to Liverpool, England, by boat, sailing from there to Bordeaux, France and finally by train to their final destination, Lourdes, at the foot of the Pyrenees. When Fr. Ring returned from this pilgrimage, he invited an Oblate Brother, Patrick Malone to erect a small grotto in honour of these events at Lourdes, in the grounds of the Oblate Church at Inchicore, Dublin. However, it was not until 1924, when Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.M.I., Superior of the Oblate Community in Inchicore, on returning from a recent pilgrimage to Lourdes, proposed building a replica grotto within the church grounds at Inchicore. He hoped that those who would be unable to undertake the journey to Lourdes would have an opportunity to express their devotion to Our Lady in Ireland. His desire was understandable, as in the 1920s, Lourdes, in southern France was a long distance from Ireland and affordable for very few Irish people.



Volunteers digging the foundations 1928 Brother Patrick McIntyre

Who built and designed the grotto?

When Fr. Michael Sweeney, Superior of the House in Inchicore, returned from the Lourdes Pilgrimage in 1924, he set about raising funds to erect a replica Lourdes Grotto. The opening of the Grotto was advertised in the national newspapers and more than 18,000 donors contributed circa £8,000 towards its construction, roughly over £500,000 equivalent today.¹

He engaged Brother Patrick McIntyre, a skilled carpenter, who over time went to Lourdes and measured in detail the contours of the grotto with its cave and niches. The physical work of digging the foundations and building the entire structure was guaranteed by the men from the railways works nearby in Inchicore and also local men who gave their skills, many after working long hours during the day at their employment elsewhere. Supervising this entire project was the genial, Brother McIntyre.

The Grotto when finished was 43ft deep, 130ft wide and 24ft in height. It took two years to complete. It is a full replica grotto of Lourdes, in reinforced concrete, with rough case render to all elevations, covering reinforced concrete and a metal frame. A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is elevated in a niche. There is a beautiful altar inside the cave and a special permanent pulpit on one side. Unfortunately, no plan drawings exist of the actual design.



Fr. William Ring, O.M.I.



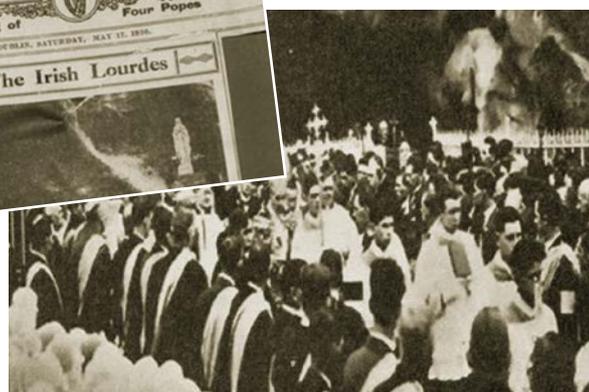
Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.M.I.



2021 Pilgrimage at the Grotto



Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Edward Byrne



Torchlight Procession

Foundation Blessing and Official Opening of the Grotto

The foundation of the grotto was blessed by Fr. Joseph Scannell, Oblate Provincial Superior, in August 1928.

The Grotto was officially opened with the celebration of High Mass by the Shrine, on Sunday, 11 May, 1930, before an estimated 100,000 people, with many people remaining outside the gates of the church and on the main road. Over 2000 people subscribed to the project and a scroll with their names was placed in a special recess at the feet of the statue of Our Lady, which was made from white Carrara marble. The Inchicore Grotto was blessed by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Edward Byrne, on 11 May, 1930. The preacher for the occasion was Dr. William McNeely, Bishop of Raphoe.

In 1931, The Irish Catholic Directory, reported 'May 11

Not since the Emancipation Centenary celebrations has there been such a wonderful demonstration of devotion in Dublin as that witnessed at Inchicore today at the solemn opening by the Archbishop of Dublin of the Irish Lourdes Grotto in the grounds of the famous Oblate Church'.

To-day, local Dublin people and visitors from abroad come to light a candle for a special intention or to pray for peace and reconciliation to Our Blessed Lady at the grotto in Inchicore. The Oblates annual Lourdes Novena begins on 2nd February and culminates on the 11th February with the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, with the traditional torchlight procession at the end of Mass to the Grotto.

– Catherine Mullan,
Provincial Archivist



Lourdes 2022

17 - 22 September



DUBLIN - FROM €699

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LONDON - £585

FLIGHTS: LONDON - TOULOUSE - 5 DAYS

MANCHESTER - £765

FLIGHTS: MANCHESTER - BORDEAUX - 7 DAYS

EDINBURGH - £765

FLIGHTS: EDINBURGH - TOULOUSE - 7 DAYS

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