



Live + Jesus

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Our Mother of Consolation Parish
9 E. Chestnut Hill Ave - Philadelphia, PA 19118

"The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

St Francis de Sales

January 2021

Dear Friends of the Oblates,

Last March, when we entered the COVID-19 lockdown, I shared with you these words of encouragement from St. Francis de Sales. I pray over these past nine months, with the added pandemic of systematic racism and the challenge to our democratic values, that they have brought you some measure of reassurance and comfort. For we can only put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings by being open to God's grace.

Our Oblate family, like yours, has been impacted by the pandemic. Our ability to minister has been limited, we have experienced the need to establish increased precautions as we care for our elder Oblates, and our development efforts have been impeded. It was at the onset of the lockdown that our Provincial asked Fr. John McGinley to move from OMC to our retirement community for his well-being. I am happy to report, thanks to the efforts of our medical staff, that Fr. John and our retired Oblates are well.

Each year, as we approach the feast of St. Francis de Sales (January 24), the Oblate Community asks for your assistance through the **Oblate Annual Appeal**. Your gift to the appeal is more important than ever in helping us to supplement the shortfall we are experiencing in our fundraising efforts. OMC has generously supported this appeal over the years, and I hope we can do the same this year. On behalf of my brother Oblates, I thank you.

You can support the appeal by clicking [HERE](#), by placing your donation in the collection basket, or by mailing it to the parish office. Whatever you can give is truly appreciated. Your participation in the **Oblate Annual Appeal** is a sign of your commitment to the Oblates and to our ministry at OMC.

The 2021 **Oblate Annual Appeal** will conclude on the weekend of January 23-24 as we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis de Sales. Our Provincial, Very Rev. Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS, will preside and preach at the 4:30 PM Vigil Mass.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Oblate community.

In de Sales,
Fr. Bob