



## **“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit, for Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”** *Mt. 5:3*

Dear Friends,

In the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus lists 8 specific ways to happiness for those who seek to follow Him. We call them the Beatitudes. This newsletter focuses on the 8 Beatitudes. The first one, as stated above, speaks of “the poor”, i.e., meaning those truly destitute, depending on others to survive. Happiness comes to those who are “poor in spirit” because they recognize their own fragility and emptiness, and in absolute dependence turn to God. Jesus says that the “Kingdom of heaven IS theirs.” In some way, they already

participate in God’s reign because their emptiness has made room for God.

The LAMP Missionaries prayerfully strive to nurture that happiness in the hearts of the poor they serve. May we all realize and pursue the happiness that can be ours as we empty ourselves to make room for God.

One with you in His service,

Tom & Lyn Scheuring, Ph.D.s  
Co-Directors

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## **“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”** *Mt. 5:5*



*Among the outreaches at a multifaceted Catholic agency to those in need in the South Bronx is a Food Pantry where up to 100 come (usually families) for food, standing in line often for hours outside in the cold waiting their turn. LAMP Missionaries, Cecilia Alcocer ( offering a cup of hot chocolate in photo on left) and Kirsten Goza (extreme right in photo on right) serve those waiting in line by visiting with each person, praying with them, offering Scripture tracts, Rosaries and instruction in how to pray this powerful prayer to Jesus through Mary, and also offering them a cup of hot chocolate.*



*The first week of October, all the LAMP Missionaries gathered together for 4 days of retreat, formation, and recreation. It was a beautiful time, with teachings on Pope Francis' **Joy of the Gospel** given by Fr. John Knapp of the NY Archdiocese. Not surprisingly, these days were filled with joy. Contributing to that joy were new LAMP Missionaries, whom the Lord called to "leave their nets on the seashore" and follow Him through LAMP: **Blake Sweet**, from Wisconsin; **Alexandra Henry** from the Bronx; **Kirsten Goza** from Virginia; **Cecilia Alcocer** from Brooklyn. Alexandra (1st. row, 2nd. from left) summed up the week, and gave us something to laugh about and reflect on when she described LAMP's spirituality and mission as being "crazy deep!" Perhaps something like the Beatitudes are. Seated in the middle are Tom & Lyn, with Marybeth & Ed Greene (on right), LAMP Pastoral Directors.*

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## **"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."**

*Mt. 5:4*

It started out as a typical "LAMP for Life" day on 149<sup>th</sup> Street in the South Bronx, praying and offering help to pregnant women who were considering abortion. A young woman leaned over and inquired what I was handing out. We started talking about pregnant women in need and how there was free help available so that they wouldn't have to have an abortion. She shared that she had been tempted to have abortions with her two children but she was so glad that she didn't. I then offered her a rosary and asked if she wanted to say a prayer for her two children. Tina then put her head in her hands and

day. I need prayer. My life is so stressful right now. I need to pray." We then prayed together, and raised Tina up in prayer to God. When we finished, she started to cry again, and I asked her if she wanted to go to the Catholic Church around the corner and make a visit. She agreed and off we went.

As we walked, we chatted and talked about her relationship with her boyfriend of seven years and the desire for marriage. When we entered the church, I led her to the Holy Water fount and showed her how to make the Sign of the Cross. She imitated slowly and reverently. She had never been baptized and wanted that for herself and her children. I could tell that she just wanted to sit and pray but I wanted to show her the Tabernacle and introduce her to the Pastor, if he was available.

As we made our way to the parish office, we passed an enormous, life-size bloody crucifix and she reached out and touched his pierced feet, "I love this."

The Pastor was gracious and kind, and inquired about Tina's interest in Baptism for herself and her children. They exchanged phone numbers to follow up in a week.

He then gave Tina a blessing, and it was beautiful to see her there, standing still as a statue, with her eyes closed and completely absorbed in Father's prayer. I believe that she would have stood that way and let Father pray over her for an hour. She started to cry again, "Can we go and pray

now?" We went back to the Chapel and there Tina poured her heart out to God and we prayed for all of her intentions and desires, worries and concerns. Lastly, we prayed the first decade of the rosary together. I encouraged her to keep the rosary in her pocket and to ask the Blessed Mother for help, often and as much as Tina needed.

Tina shared that she felt such peace and relief as soon as she walked into the Church. "I really felt it." She plans on bringing her children there as she was sure that they would love it as much as she did.

I am so grateful that I could serve Tina, who was starving for the love of God!  
- Mary Schultz, LAMP Missionary

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*LAMP Missionaries, Mary Schultz and Blake Sweet (r.), visit with a woman as they stand in front of an office building in the South Bronx, which also contains an abortion clinic (there are no signs indicating this). It is a busy pedestrian area where passersby may accept a flyer from them and stop to visit, or are drawn to visit with them because the LAMP Missionaries are wearing a LAMP crucifix and have a Rosary in their hands. It is bringing the Gospel to the marketplace. Please read Mary's experience on these two pages.*



*LAMP Missionaries, Raul & Jennie Salgado (l.), visit with a family coming to a Catholic residence in the South Bronx for low-risk offenders to receive rehabilitation and support for themselves as well as their families. The poor of the area are also served. Jennie & Raul provide spiritual support through Scripture sharing groups and prayer gatherings as well as personal visits and prayer.*

**“Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.” Mt. 5:7**

“The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, in the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.”

Pope Francis, #200

**The Joy of the Gospel**

**The MALTESE CROSS  
has 8 points,  
to signify the  
8 Beatitudes.**



**LAMP Ministries is possible only by the grace of  
God and your prayers and financial assistance.**

## **With Heartfelt Gratitude...**

We wish to express our deep gratitude to those of you who responded so generously to our begging for help with our computers, and also for those donating towards LAMP purchasing Children’s Bibles. We were able to move ahead in both areas, for which we praise and thank our Lord for His merciful love, and for all our kind benefactors, whom we remember in our daily prayers.

“There is a Marian ‘style’ to the Church’s work of evangelization. Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. In her we see that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong who need not treat others poorly in order to feel important themselves.”

Pope Francis, #288

**The Joy of the Gospel**

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