Dear Friends of LAMP Catholic Ministries,

It was on the recent Feast of the Visitation that LAMP Missionaries, Mary and Bethany, were visiting and praying with families in a Bronx shelter for homeless families. One of their visits was with an expectant mother (we’ll call her Anna). After getting to know her they proposed reading the biblical story of the Blessed Mother’s visit with her cousin Elizabeth. As Anna was reading the account, which indicated that Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant (as was Anna!), all of a sudden she jerked back, flung up her arm and exclaimed, “Wow”. Her baby also leapt in her womb as this holy encounter was being read. Was that little infant in the womb responding to God’s presence?

These pages focus on God’s grace at work in the lives of children. When, by God’s grace, we began LAMP Ministries 33 years ago, our own children told us clearly, “You ARE going to have something for children, aren’t you?” That gave birth to “LAMPLighters” – a Christian club helping children know of God’s love and mercy, and having them share that with the poor through crafts and service projects, such as making sandwiches for the poor.

LAMP’s ministries to children also includes pro-life counseling on the streets of the S. Bronx, to visiting and praying with older children in a Youth Detention Center. Thank you for being with us in these blest efforts.

One with you in the Hearts of Jesus & Mary,

Dr. Tom & Dr. Lyn Scheuring Co-Directors

(For left) LAMP Missionary Mary Schultz lovingly shares how precious the gift of life is with two young women outside an abortion facility in the South Bronx, and asking them to pray for all mothers and babies. She also offers rosaries to anyone who would like one, and gives them instructions on how to pray this beautiful and powerful prayer.

All materials © LAMP Ministries 2014
Mary’s Holy Saturday

It was a Saturday
A springtime Sabbath Saturday
When the stifling silence
Made it hard to breathe.
The dearest of women
was alone with her thoughts.
She believed and waited,
Unable to control
Yesterday’s images
But digging deep
For His promises
And repeating them
Over and over again.

Her mind kept wandering,
Thinking of other mothers--
The mothers of the men
Who died next to her Son,
The mothers of the poor of all times
Who lose their sons and daughters
Through violence of all kinds.

With her heart wide open
to their suffering
The night hours’ slow passing
Wed her thoughts to the darkness
In a strange and powerful way.
At long last, a hint of dawn,
And suddenly in the room
He appeared
Changed, yet recognizable
To her mother’s eyes.

The joy, the light of His body
Banished Friday’s sorrow
As she feasted
on His adorable face,
As she drank in
His living Presence,
Recognizing that
He alone will satisfy
The pierced hearts
of all who mourn.

-Marybeth Greene

Joseph’s Lamp

Holding his lamp,
Leaning close,
Joseph disappears
To the Glow below.

Tirelessly protecting,
on the Darkest night,
Without his strength,
there would be no light.

A first-time father,
in awe of the One,
who will teach him Love,
and be called his son.

The world must see
this newborn Life,
so shepherds, kings and ALL
may live without strife.

“What else can I do
to keep my lamp burning bright?
I must disappear
as I give others sight.

I must be ready to learn
what it means to take part
in a story so great,
my lamp reveals God’s Heart!”

Young and old must see with my lamp,
the burning flame of Love,
the soft glow of compassion,
it is the Lord from above!

-A friend of LAMP

If someone would like to help illustrate a children’s book about Joseph’s lamp, please be in touch with us.
“The lives of many who suffer give quiet testimony to what Pope Francis writes in *Lumen Fidei*: ‘Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey.’” -Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus, *Columbia Magazine*

**Iona Prep Students Let Their Lights Shine**

From the very beginning of LAMP 33 years ago, children have participated in LAMP’s mission through an outreach called “LAMPLighters.” This past year, students from Iona Prep in New Rochelle, NY have participated in the evangelization efforts of LAMP, both by preparing lunches and creating evangelical messages on the bags to be given out. They also brought their students to the LAMPcafè on the streets of the South Bronx to meet and serve the people who are hungry for physical and spiritual nourishment. Their presence brought joy to the faces of the people LAMP serves, as well as to the LAMP Missionaries. The following are some of the thoughts the boys shared.

“...many people commented on how special the messages on the bags were (see caption this page). They said that these messages made their day and that some of them even relate to them personally.” -Matthieu

“I really enjoyed having the conversations with the guests.... I hope that I could go back another day to see their wonderful faces once again. While heading back on the bus, I felt like a whole new person. I felt like a seedling that was becoming a full grown flower.” -Joseph

“I would like to thank Brother for inviting me for this experience. Also I would like to thank the LAMP team at the LAMPcafè for letting me come. And I would like to thank God for giving me all that I have.” -Peter

“There was one person that I will never forget. He came up and asked for two Rosary beads in a shy manner. In my head I wondered why he wanted two so I presumed he was going to give it to somebody that needed it. It brought a big smile to my face that people with so little could care for someone else....” -Gearoid

Students from Iona Prep have not only been making lunches and decorating the bags with messages of God’s love (top photo), but their school is bringing teams of them to actually serve the people who come to the LAMPcafè (bottom photo). LAMP is honored to have these students serving with us.
We Need Your Help!

It was on April 24th that LAMP lost all its computer data due to a system failure of the mechanism that stored and backed up our data. Our mailing list, forms, financial data, and over 1000 files from four computers were lost. We thank the Lord that after 6 weeks they have been recovered by a high tech recovery firm. The lingering challenge is that the recovery cost LAMP $6,239.00 – a totally unexpected major expense. That does not include the cost of a local technician reintegrating the files into our system and setting us up with a new and better back-up system. Would you, or possibly someone you know, be able to assist us with this expense? May the Lord bless you for considering this request.

LAMP has run out of Children’s Bibles for the children who live in shelters! We are asking God to provide one or more generous donors to contribute $500 earmarked for these Bibles. Are you one He is providing?

“A Little Child Shall Lead Them”

“Go away, don’t bother me!” the distraught woman in a shelter for homeless families screamed at Bethany and Mary, two LAMP Missionaries who visit the shelter each week. A bit startled by this woman, Janet, who had always welcomed them in the past, Mary and Bethany quickly whispered a prayer for the poor woman, and moved on to the next door, where they knocked and visited with another family.

Several weeks later, the LAMP Missionaries were again knocking on the doors of that shelter. In the yard below, Janet was sitting with her little daughter, Gloria. When the little girl saw the LAMP Missionaries knocking on doors, she said to her mother: “Mommy, look, there are the ‘church ladies.’ Let’s ask them to come visit us!” Janet proceeded to invite Mary and Bethany to visit and to pray with them. It says in the Scriptures, “A little child shall lead them.” It was little Gloria who re-established the support of her mother’s faith-life.

We Need Your Help!

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