Almost from the beginning of LAMP, I started and have been directing the LAMPLIGHTERS, who are children that participate in LAMP’s mission. It is a joy to see them grow in faith and in service leadership. They sometimes experience a surprise coming from the Lord’s compassionate Heartbeat. On one occasion, the LAMPLIGHTERS made colorful banners about God’s love (anything they make is given to the poor), and the banners were given by a LAMP Missionary to people with mental disabilities who lived in a run-down, infested “hotel” in Times Square.

One elderly woman in particular, Dorothy, was so delighted by the banner that she wanted to somehow reciprocate. She had so little, but she sent the children a thank you note and a book of her food stamps!

Like the widow in the Gospel that Jesus admired so much, Dorothy had given of her sustenance to express her gratitude to her “good and righteous Lord” (her favorite words!). Of course, the LAMPLIGHTERS used it to purchase food and fruit that was delivered right to Dorothy’s door. Dorothy has long since passed into eternal life, and we ask you, Dorothy, to please pray for us, and for all the children of the world!
Ed Greene (26 years)

Ed witnessing to passers-by On 42nd St. from a table with faith materials in front of a Church where he currently serves.

I had served at a hotel that was used as a shelter for homeless families. I would stand in the lobby to greet the people as they walked in and out of the building. It was a way of getting to know the people, who were under a great deal of stress and difficulty. My presence there led to conversations about the love of Jesus, and opportunities to pray with those who desired it.

Mary, one of the mothers in the shelter, would say hello to me many times as she would pass by. For months she never stopped to talk, until one day she stopped and asked me questions about the Catholic faith. That visit led to her entering the RCIA. I happily sponsored her. While she was being absorbed in her growing faith, she was struck with kidney disease. I will never forget her radiant face at the Easter Vigil, when she was being received into the Church. She was grasping a cane, having just come out of the hospital. Her peace was undeniable as she said with the innocence and delight of a child, “This is so wonderful!” How awesome our God and His Church are!

After her conversion, she became an active member of the Church and a dedicated RCIA team member.

Chester Pawlowski (16 years)

At one of the nursing homes where I serve, the Recreation Director approached me and asked if I would visit a patient, Abu, who was deeply ill. The staff at the nursing home had begun to refer to him as “the demon patient.” He is from Africa, and as a youth, I learned, had been present at demonic rituals.

After consulting a parish priest about this situation, I now visit this man on a regular basis. It was in his dreams that he would experience being attacked. Especially during this Easter season, I would read from the Scriptures about the victory of the cross, and invoke the Blood of Jesus shed on the cross to flow on him from head to toe, to cleanse and heal. Abu cannot speak, but he was able to let me know that his dreams are improving. He is not able to receive Holy Communion, because of his complicated medical condition, but I lead him in a Spiritual Communion. In his suffering, I am honored to be a consolation to his soul by sharing the Gospel of Jesus and the faith of the Church with him.

Sr. Emmanuel Palus, ASC (24 years)

Sister served as a LAMP Missionary, and also now as an Advisor. (left) Sister visiting with a homeless family.

Sr. Emmanuel began her service with LAMP by reaching out to 500 homeless families at the squalid, dangerous Martinique Hotel. She was a faith support to countless families there. One family described her this way: “To begin with, she was always praying I would see her often, and she thought no one was noticing, but I did notice. When something was wrong, she would take our hands and she’d say something to lift our spirits. She gave us pictures of saints and rosaries and would tell us stories of Jesus. She helped me to get my children to the local parish for religion class, and arranged for them to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion. Sometimes people weren’t nice to her, but that didn’t stop her from helping them. I think that’s what a LAMP Missionary does.”
Judy Greene (7 years)

I met Judita in 2006 when I knocked on her door at a homeless shelter and a sad looking person answered. She later told me that before I knocked at the door, she was praying that she would see Jesus, and there I was bringing Jesus to her.

During our sharing, Judita’s daughter called. The daughter asked to speak to me and said that she did not want me visiting because the Catholic belief is different from hers. Nevertheless, Judita and I kept on sharing about God. She would cry whenever she mentioned family issues. Then she would thank God for what He has done for her, and we would sing praise and worship songs.

We had many such encounters. When I visited, if her daughter or granddaughter were home, we would meet in the corridor and read Scripture there, because Judita was determined that no one was going to interfere with her desire to grow in Jesus.

We are still in touch today. She goes with me to LAMP’s monthly Women’s Retreat Day where she meets Jesus through her sharing with other women and through our prayer times before the Blessed Sacrament, at the end of which she feels so blessed.

Margaret Moschetto (11 years)

Serving a Staten Island parish, I have been with countless individuals and families during the lowest point in their lives, when they were without food, clothing, funds or furniture or when they lost their faith, home, job or family member due to death or divorce.

I’ll never forget the Tuesday a woman, rather immodestly dressed, approached the rectory carrying a brown paper bag. I happened to be outside and I asked if I could help her. Obviously distraught, she said her husband had just left her and she was driving around looking for a place to consume the pills in her paper bag. Never having been on our street before, the Spirit led her past our outdoor statue of Jesus hugging a fireman. Seeing that, she stopped her car and got out.

I realized that she needed one of Jesus’ hugs and that He needed me to be His arms at that time. That day, we hugged and cried and talked together for hours until I felt she was out of danger of hurting herself. I invited her to a Support Group that Friday and prayed that she would come—and she did! She truly is “living” proof of God’s love for each of us!

NYPD Det. Steven McDonald (14 years)

Being shot while on duty left Steven a quadriplegic. He serves as a LAMP Missionary Associate, speaking to groups about the love of Jesus and Mary, and the power of forgiveness.
Announcements

We thank God that LAMP Missionaries, who work in the pro-life apostolate, have been instrumental in a good number of young women turning away from abortion and choosing to give their babies life.

We welcome new LAMP Missionaries Eva Dunian, who came to LAMP from Washington DC, and Janie Fisher, who is originally from Texas. We ask the Lord and our Blessed Mother to bless and protect them, and make their service fruitful for Him.

If you would like to make little reminders for Haitian children that Jesus is with them, please see “Hearts for Haiti” on the LAMP website: www.lampministries.org, or call or write and we will send you templates to use.

We give the Lord glory that two LAMP Missionaries recently received awards for their service: Chris Guth from Koler-Goldwater Hospital, and from NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation, and Marybeth Greene, from NY Archdiocese Catholic Charities.

How gracious the Lord is to provide a whole new computer system for the LAMP Center through the kindness of a benefactor who read our newsletter!

Steve Horka (10 years)

I met Joseph one day when I was serving with the LAMPcafé. He told me that he had been diagnosed with a rapidly growing cancer. I remember experiencing my heart being moved with compassion in a strong way, and I asked Joseph if I might pray with him. When I reached my hand to place on his shoulder, and began to pray, he suddenly jumped backwards with a start. He told me that he felt a jolt knock him back. I was just praying a simple prayer to Jesus that He would heal Joseph, and He took me at my word. The next week, Joseph came back, and told me that his doctor was amazed that his cancer count had drastically dropped, and could find no explanation for it. But Joseph knew that it was the Lord who touched him that day, surprising the both of us with His saving love.