Dear Friends of LAMP,

There are some things of which we do not need to be convinced. As Catholic Christians, the Eucharistic presence of Jesus is one of them. Jesus was not vague about it when he very clearly said at the Last Supper: “This is My Body”, and “This is My Blood”. There are hundreds of documented miracles, involving the Eucharist, that have occurred throughout the last 2000 years. And yet the Mass, and receiving the Body of Christ, can become a routine and a ritual of which we become totally out of touch with its meaning and the effect it can have in our lives.

We all struggle with situations that we barely feel capable of dealing with. We aren’t meant to face them alone. The Holy Spirit, Whom we celebrate on Pentecost, as well as the Blessed Mother, are to be a real presence and aid in our daily lives. Jesus also left us the Sacraments, especially His Eucharistic Presence as Food for the journey. As Blessed John Paul II stated: “Mary guides the faithful to the Eucharist.” Receiving the Lord with reverence and reflection, can gradually allow, enable, Him to make His way into our daily struggles--and rescue us. As Bl. John Paul II also states: The Eucharist has been given to us so that our life, like that of Mary, may become completely a Magnificat!

May we each rediscover the life-giving Divine Presence that comes with each Eucharistic encounter. One with you in the beating Hearts of Jesus & Mary,

[Signature]

"Lord Jesus, Who in the Eucharist make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion, sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity."

- Bl. John Paul II

LAMP Missionaries (l.) traditionally spend Easter week together at a retreat house, rejoicing in the Lord’s victory over darkness and death. These joyful days include prayer and adoration, daily Eucharist, community gatherings, and recreation.
**My Need for the Eucharist**

*Todd Levitas, a LAMP Missionary serving youth and pregnant women in crisis in the South Bronx, talks about the Eucharist:*

My spirituality has been drastically changed by LAMP. Everyday is just a completely new experience because God everyday is a completely new experience. It boggles my mind in a good way, in that you sense God’s grace so much when one is doing what one is called to do, which in my case is to evangelize with the Word of God.

The most important part of my ministry with LAMP is receiving the Eucharist. Before LAMP, I went to Mass about once, maybe twice, a week. Now I go to Mass almost every day. If it weren't for that Eucharist, Jesus literally dwelling inside of me, I don't think there is any way I could do what I do, serving youth in an inner-city parish, and counseling poor women who are in crisis because of a pregnancy. My ministry is that intense. I literally need Jesus Christ in the Eucharist inside of me. When I receive Him at Mass, it is the most comforting part of my day. Nothing else matters at that time. It is just me and Jesus. Whether I had a hard day or am about to go into a hard day, at that Eucharist everything is just peaceful and very hopeful.

This past year, **113,000 persons** have slept for some period of time in New York City shelters. *Lord Jesus, please show your love to each of these men, women, and children.*

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**“How Come You Are Always Happy?”**

*LAMP Missionary Timothy Gilbride shared a recent encounter with a very unhappy man whom God touched.*

Victor is a very large and a very angry man. I visit him on a regular basis in the nursing home where I serve in a very poor parish in Brooklyn. Every time I go in his room, I ask Victor how he is, and that begins a 20 minute tirade of everything he perceives wrong with the home. This has occurred many times. I try to love him through it by listening. Recently when I entered his room, Victor gruffly commented: “Don’t even ask me how I am!” I told him: “When I ask you how you are, you always tell me about this place. I want to know how YOU are.” We visited a little and I prayed with him, and taught him the “Serenity Prayer”. Victor asked me, “How come you are always happy?” I responded: “It’s a gift from God that I’ve discovered”. Victor’s response: “No, really. I’m not buying it.”

This past week, I visited Victor again. As I walked in, Victor said: “You can ask me how I am. I wasn’t good up until Saturday, then I started thinking about what you said. I’m going to lose 100 lbs. I don’t know why I’m so angry at God. I’m really mad at myself. I’m going to change. I’m going to rely more on God. But I’m still not as happy as you are!” Yes, I thought to myself, but if you stay open to the Lord, you will be!
LAMP Missionaries Janelle Krzmarzick and Samantha Vosters, who like all LAMP Missionaries receive spiritual nourishment from daily Mass and the Eucharist, spend their days sharing the joy of knowing Jesus with homeless families, incarcerated youth, pregnant young mothers, and youth in training through LAMPLIGHTERS. (l.) Janelle walks with LAMPLIGHTER youth to a nursing home where they presented a play and gave the residents a craft depicting the love of God. (r.) Samantha visits with one of the residents of the nursing home. Below they share experiences reaching out in shelters for homeless families.

At a large shelter for homeless families in Manhattan, Amanda asked us if we would come to visit her in the room where she was living with her children in the shelter. She confided to us her desire to go to Church and maybe become a parishioner, but her social anxiety and some negative experiences in the past with a church group kept her from doing so. She also suffered from depression and was down because she believed she was a bad mother and that her children deserved better.

We did our best to encourage her, sharing the hope that Jesus gives, and also affirming her by telling her that God created her in love and He delights in her. We prayed with her and read from the Gospels. As we were leaving, I offered to go to the nearby Catholic parish with her that Saturday evening for Mass, which seemed to make her very happy. When Saturday came, she and her children met me at the church, and Amanda was all smiles. The day after we had prayed with her, she found out from the city that she could start looking for permanent housing. It was a wonderful night of thanksgiving as we went to Mass together.  

- Janelle Krzmarzick

It was January, I was tired, it was snowing a lot, and I felt I had no motivation for ministry. All of this brought me to my knees, asking the Lord for the help I needed to serve Him by reaching out in love to homeless families that afternoon. The Lord gave me the grace I needed. One door that I knocked on was opened by a woman who eagerly invited me in after I introduced myself and explained that I was visiting her to be a support in her faith life. She told me that she had just gotten to the shelter from a very difficult home situation. She and her teenage son were just beginning to look for a church. As we were speaking, her son called and asked if she had found a church yet. She looked up at me, smiled, and said she was just about to find one!

We prayed together and I referred her to the local Catholic Church. The next week when I saw her, she was so elated. They had gone to Mass, and she was glowing as she described how peaceful and beautiful it was to be there. Janelle and I visited her a number of times, reading the Scriptures with her, and she was so grateful to share her faith journey with us.

- Samantha Vosters
We are celebrating LAMP’s 30th Anniversary with a Eucharistic procession, giving public witness and worship of the Lord’s presence in the Blessed Sacrament, on 42nd Street, Saturday, June 25, 2011, Vigil of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
3 pm at Church of the Holy Cross, 42nd Street between 8th & 9th Avenues, Manhattan, beginning with Benediction, followed by Eucharistic procession, and concluding with 4:30 Mass. Co-sponsored by Church of the Holy Cross and LAMP Catholic Ministries
All are invited to join us!

LAMP MINISTRIES IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Announcements

- We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of St. Joseph in providing for LAMP over the 30 years of LAMP’s mission. He has provided in large and small ways through our friends and benefactors!
- With deep gratitude for your support, we ask you to consider including LAMP Ministries in your will. LAMP Ministries. Inc., is a not for profit corporation with the IRS designation of 501(c)3.
- Also, someone may have property in the NYC area, and is wondering what to do with it. Perhaps you would like to consider willing it to LAMP to help in its further development of evangelization among the materially poor.

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- Two of the bedrooms where LAMP Missionaries sleep do not have windows large enough for an air conditioner, so we are in need of two windowless air conditioners. Please, St. Joseph and two kind benefactors, would you please provide these?

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- You can now find LAMP Ministries on Facebook and YouTube!