“I Am With You Always”  (Mt. 28:20)

Dear Friends of LAMP,

The fragile, human, element of the Church is ever before us. Our frailty leaves us amazed at the fact that this Church has existed for 2,000 years. Yet we hear Jesus in the Gospels saying: “I will not leave you orphans.” (Jn. 14:18) His continued presence is the assurance, in spite of headlines. In a recent document, Pope Benedict stated that Jesus “wanted to remain with us as the beating heart of the Church.” With LAMP Ministries beginning its 30th year, we treasure its ecclesial bond, described by Archbishop Dolan (see p. 2).

This bond with the Church, and seeking to be one with the beating Hearts of Jesus and Mary, infuses the LAMP Missionaries with grace to be witnesses of His love and compassion, especially to those forgotten, on the edge.

May we all draw from God’s abundance as we seek to respond to our baptismal call to be communicators of the Good News, witnesses of His love.

One with you in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Tom & Lyn Scheuring, Ph.D.s
Stewards

From the Revelations of St. Gertrude:

Then Jesus drew (St. Gertrude’s) soul near to His Heart, and she there soon distinguished two beatings most sweet to hear. “The first speaks without intermission to My Father, in order to appease His justice and draw down His mercy. By this same beating, I speak to all the Saints, making excuse to them for sinners, with the zeal and indulgence of a good brother, and urging them to make intercession for them. This same beating is the incessant appeal I mercifully address to the sinner himself, with so unspeakable a desire to see him come back to Me, that I never weary of awaiting his return.”

from Love, Peace and Joy by Very Rev. André Prévot

With the Beating of His Heart

Celebrating Jesus, coming in the Eucharist

Softly the “little” Lord of the universe enters my heart.
He is not small at all!
He is quite cosmically tall yet answers my call and huddles in my messy stall.

Be Yourself, I say.
Please don’t mind the hay and debris.
With that He allows Himself to be as expansive as He can in my frail dwelling place.

This will not work, I say.
You need to be able to play, to stretch, to move, to grow but I don’t want You to go.
Please stay with me, please stay.

He understood me well and beckoned me to dwell in His Heart instead.
Yes, He will be my head and heart as well.

So the “little” Lord is now Himself but did not put me on a shelf.
He gave me a new start, assigned me a new part, so where He moves I also move with the beating of His Heart.

~Marybeth Greene
LAMP Missionary
A Joyful Pastoral Visit with Archbishop Dolan

The following are excerpts from a homily given by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan when he came to celebrate Mass and visit with the LAMP Missionaries and staff on Monday, August 16.

“And if what we do does not flow from who we are, sooner or later we’re going to become fatigued, we’re going to burn out, we’re going to become cynical and we’ll be ineffective. You seem to have your priorities right. Your prayer together, your time before and with the Lord is what gives meaning and purpose to your ministry. I’m inspired by that…

“A second thing that inspired me was how much you savor your ecclesial bond. You know what “ecclesial” means. Ecclesial is a fancy word for the Church-- your Church bond. You are men and women of the Church. You savor your bond with the Church.”

From a LAMP Missionary Associate:
“I’m Getting Better At This…”

LAMP presently has over 30 LAMP Missionary Associates around the world who are seeking to live the spirituality and evangelization mission of LAMP in their everyday lives. LAMP provides evangelization materials and regular support to these men and women. Charles Shay, who is a public school teacher, wrote LAMP a letter, sharing his struggles as well as his experience taking steps to share the love of Jesus with others, as he responds to this missionary call.

Not long ago, in one of the two supermarkets I frequent near school, I bumped into the mother of one of my former students. She was working as a cashier. Her son was in my class last year, but they moved and he is in another school within the district. Ordinarily I would have just shared a few pleasantries with her and moved on. However, I felt that since her son was no longer in my school, perhaps I could take a chance. I knew that she and her husband recently broke up (the reason for their move), so I asked how her children were doing. Usually, a very cheerful person, she sadly related that they were doing fine, but missed their father and their old family life. I gave her a card that read: “You are precious in God’s eyes”, and rosary beads, and told her that God loves her. I also told her I would pray for her and her family, but that I wanted her to pray too. Unfortunately, more people had gotten on her line, and I really didn’t want her to get into trouble by stopping her work to pray with me.

I have since been back to that store twice and she always gives me a big smile and she told me that she had started going to Mass again, and is taking the children with her. Though my early efforts were not very successful, just the process of writing this letter had made me realize that I’m getting better at this.

If you would like to live the spirituality of LAMP as a LAMP Missionary Associate, please write, call (718-409-5062) or email: mgreene@lampministries.org.
I began my tenure with LAMP Ministries in January, 2001. At that time, I was assigned to serve as a chaplain at Children’s Village in Dobbs Ferry, NY, and also part-time at Transfiguration Parish in Chinatown, New York City. The priests at Transfiguration are from the Maryknoll Missionaries. This is a missionary parish because the entire parish is made up of Chinese immigrants. I welcomed the ecclesial connection of serving in a Catholic parish, and also experienced as never before the universality of the Catholic Church.

The Children’s Village on the other hand was not an explicit Catholic environment at all. It is a state run facility for emotionally troubled youth (predominantly boys). There is, however, an excellent campus ministry or Pastoral Care Program. I worked closely with a Protestant Chaplain who was full time director of the program. A group of CFR Friars volunteered time on a weekly basis, and Mass was provided on Sundays for the boys who were Catholic. I had the opportunity to help prepare many boys for the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation. This past year, Archbishop Dolan himself administered the Sacrament of Confirmation there, which strengthened its ecclesial connection.

Later that same year, I began serving with the LAMPcafé, which, through the use of a canteen truck, serves lunch and shares the Good News of Jesus at two different locations in the South Bronx, four days a week. Even this simple ministry had an element of an ecclesial basis, because the two locations were in front of Catholic Churches. The connection to the Catholic Church was always made very clear and people were encouraged to visit the Church. Sunday bulletins from each parish were available to hand out to the people who were interested.

In my more recent years with LAMP, I have been serving as a Parish Director of Religious Education: first in the Archdiocese of New York and now in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Both parishes are in very poor neighborhoods. This ministry involves much collaboration with other Parish and Diocesan personnel, which strengthens my appreciation of and need for ecclesial bonds and unity.

LAMP has always stressed the importance of its being in “the Heart of the Church,” and I certainly have personally experienced that. No more evidence of LAMP Ministries as a Lay Ecclesial Movement could have been evidenced than at our 25th Anniversary Mass in 2006. The Principal Celebrant was Bishop McCormack (former National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith) along with 22 concelebrating priests, made up of both diocesan clergy and religious order priests. In my mind it beautifully manifested the ecclesial bond and deep fraternal communion of LAMP with the Catholic Church.

This photo of LAMP Missionary Chester Pawlowski praying before the Blessed Sacrament, which appeared in our last newsletter, is repeated to celebrate Chester’s unexpected entrance into eternal life this past June. Chester led a very prayerful, apostolic life, and had made a permanent commitment to serve the Lord through LAMP. He was faithful to the end. Please pray for us, dear Chester!
WE ASK YOUR HELP! Autumn is moving toward winter with its frosty temperatures, snow, ice, and wind. **We beg you in the name of Jesus** to send us, if you are able, new socks, gloves, hats, or scarves for our poor and homeless brothers and sisters, young and old, on the streets. Thank you!

### The Poor on the Streets

For many years now, LAMP Missionary **Ed Greene** (who serves at Holy Cross Parish on 42nd St. in Times Square, Manhattan—see Ed’s photo on p. 2), and a team reach out to people who are homeless on the streets around the Port Authority (NYC’s bus terminal). The homeless are invited to a “fellowship” time at the Church, where they read God’s Word, and discuss it together. Light food is provided, but that is clearly secondary, many guests say, to the joy and peace that comes from encountering Jesus as God’s Word.

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

PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING LAMP MINISTRIES, INC. IN YOUR WILL.

Thank you!

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### Announcements

LAMP welcomed three new LAMP Missionaries this fall: (left to right) **Samantha Vosters** arrived from Wisconsin to begin service with homeless families and others in need of a deeper awareness of God’s unconditional love for them; **Todd Levitas** came from Maryland, and is serving with youth at a parish in the South Bronx, and with crisis pregnancies; **Timothy Gilbride** came from Arizona, and is joyfully serving at several poor nursing homes, and with the LAMPcafé.

A final reflection: in speaking about the ecclesial dimension, LAMP acknowledges the blessing from God it is to collaborate with the CFR Sisters and the Sisters of Life.