His Compassionate, Beating Heart for the Poor and Broken

With our Blessed Mother Mary, whose beating Heart is united to her dear Son's, we invite you to join us in seeking a deeper relationship with the merciful, beating Heart of Jesus for any person in need we encounter.

Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings in the Lord Jesus.

We are most grateful to the Lord to be celebrating 35 years of evangelization service with the materially poor during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, grateful for the many men and women who have come for a year or many years to carry on the mission of LAMP, and to grow in holiness together as LAMP Missionaries. We are also deeply grateful for your prayers and financial assistance.

A very significant moment in LAMP’s history occurred in 1999, when Cardinal John O’Connor invited LAMP to be members of the Council for Ecclesial Movements in the New York Archdiocese. Tom & Lyn attended the first meeting, wondering why they were there among movements that had many thousands of members world-wide. The Cardinal asked each person present to describe their “movement.” Lyn, not knowing how to answer that question as it became her time to speak, had a strong sense of the Lord’s beating Heart and said: “LAMP’s movement is the compassionate, beating Heart of Jesus for those we serve!” That revelation has become a cornerstone for LAMP’s spirituality and service. We read a number of times in Scripture that Jesus’ heart was “moved with compassion.” That is the way LAMP Missionaries are formed to approach the poor with the message of the love of the Father through Jesus.

Regarding the Lord’s beating Heart, we recently heard the story of what is called The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires. You can find the complete story on YouTube, but the part that is thrilling to us is to know that the Sacred Host, which had turned into flesh, was analyzed by renowned forensic scientists, and was found to be a section of a living Heart, part of the left ventricle, which is responsible for the beating of the heart. This has increased our appreciation for that revelation the Lord gave to Lyn so many years ago.

We give great thanks to God and trust in His constant grace for the LAMP Missionaries to nurture His love in the hearts of the poor for many years to come.

One in the Hearts of Jesus & Mary,

Tom & Lyn Scheuring, Ph.D.s
Marybeth & Ed Greene
Directors
Pastoral Directors
35 Years:
“Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give glory!”
(Ps. 115:1)

Beginning in the 1980’s: (1) serving the homeless and hungry on the streets of the South Bronx; (2) LAMP Missionaries Joe & Rosanne Tysz leading a LAMPLIGHTERS children’s group in a poor parish; (3) LAMP began to serve homeless families in 1986, visiting “welfare hotels” where hundreds of families were crowded together. Today this need is greater than ever. (4) LAMP Missionary Lisette VanMuenster (now Sr. Joseph Therese, CFR) serving with poor youth; (5) Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, was a good friend of LAMP, shown here giving a Formation workshop on holiness; (6) 2000: Fr. Mike Scanlan, TOR, then President of Franciscan University, presented the Poverello Award to LAMP “in recognition of great benefactions to humanity exemplifying in our age the Christ-like spirit of charity which filled the life of St. Francis of Assisi.” LAMP Missionaries continue to listen and pray with the poor in the ways listed here, as well as in poor hospitals and nursing homes; with youth in a detention center and with first-time offenders, and reaching our to poor women in crisis pregnancy. (7) 2011: Cardinal Timothy Dolan visits the LAMP Missionaries and celebrates Mass at the LAMP Center.
Through the initiative and pastoral support of John Cardinal O’Connor (2nd from left), LAMP was granted canonical recognition in May, 1999. Msgr. Bart Daly (far left), then Vicar for Religious, read the canonical decree while Founders/Directors Tom & Lyn Scheuring (standing next to Cardinal O’Connor) and Pastoral Directors Marybeth & Ed Greene listened with hearts full of joy and gratitude. The LAMPcafé truck, which the Cardinal blessed that day, is in the background.

Over the years, Tom & Lyn were invited to appear on EWTN with Mother Angelica and others. They are shown here in 1985 with Mother Angelica the first time she had them as guests to witness to God’s work through LAMP.

Tom & Lyn’s children, Maria (center), Malissa (left) and Paul have continued to contribute to LAMP’s mission over these 35 years. For example, Maria, a lawyer, arranged for LAMP Missionaries to speak at her children’s school, and spoke of her experience in LAMPlighters as a child; Malissa, a professor, collaborated with her children’s school for the students to make sandwiches for the LAMPcafé during Lent. Paul, who works with homeless youth, gave a workshop on housing and the homeless as part of the formation for LAMP Missionaries. Tom & Lyn’s 5 grandchildren also participate in LAMP’s service.
A Foreshadowing
by Ed Greene,
Pastoral Co-Director

While celebrating LAMP’s 35th anniversary, a memory came to mind of an experience that foreshadowed my calling as a LAMP Missionary.

When I was eighteen, I was traveling to college and was walking near Penn Station in NYC. All of a sudden, a man not too much older than I appeared right in front of me. He was pale and very thin. He begged me, “Please help me. I’m a heroin addict! Please come with me. I want to show you how I live!”

I fearfully followed this poor man, not being able to refuse him in his desperation. He led me to a dilapidated, abandoned, dark building. It was a frightening experience. After the man showed me his terrible, dingy room, he brought me out on the street again. “Please take me to a priest, he knows me.” I accompanied him to a nearby rectory.

This is very much what the call to LAMP Ministries is about. We accompany our sisters and brothers who can often be so broken by the tragic circumstances in their lives. We go with them as it were, without judgment, to the gentle compassionate Heart of Jesus, and when they are open to it, to the nearby Catholic parish to speak to a priest for further sacramental support. It was like this poor young man was showing me my future vocation!

LAMP Catholic Ministries is possible only by the grace of God and your prayers and financial assistance. Please help us, by making a donation in the enclosed envelope, or through Paypal, if you are able. LAMP Ministries is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, not for profit corporation. Thank you!