Dear Friends of LAMP,

Earlier this year, Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Exhortation entitled: “Rejoice and be Glad.” This document is about “holiness” -- a few brief quotes are within this newsletter, and the titles of the sections are taken from the Holy Father’s document as well. There are also short witnesses from some of the LAMP Missionaries, describing how their service in LAMP has affected their relationship with God and strengthened their heart of service, and a poem about Servant of God Dorothy Day, who collaborated with our (Tom & Lyn) ministry to runaways in NYC’s East Village in the early 70’s. LAMP nurtures God’s love in a variety of outreaches among those in need in New York City. We need more people, who are seeking holiness, to serve as LAMP Missionaries for a minimum of a year. Would you assist us in finding these people by passing this newsletter on to a possible candidate? Thank you for your help and your prayers.

One with you in His service,

Tom & Lyn Scheuring, Ph.D.s
Directors

Marybeth & Ed Greene
Pastoral Directors

Cristian Bustos recently encountered a homeless woman who eagerly entered into conversation and prayer with Cristian and other LAMP Missionaries who reach out to the many homeless on the street in the Times Square area of New York City.

“Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness.”

Being close with the materially poor and witnessing their brokenness, suffering, and captivity helps me appreciate so much more Jesus’ action of suffering for us on Calvary. Being a LAMP Missionary thrusts me face to face with Jesus’ Heart, His Heart that beats for all. It beats so preciously in LAMP, and seeing His love for the poor is life changing! –Steve Patterson
“Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness.”

At one of the shelters for homeless families that we visit, we knocked on Mara’s door for the first time, and she immediately welcomed us in. She began to tell us about her life. At 17, she was pregnant and her mother brought her to have an abortion. Not long after, she got pregnant again, and now has a 2 month old baby, Elie. We were able to talk about healing from that abortion and God’s forgiveness. It became clear that the child in her arms was God’s way to her heart. She loves her baby so much, and is intrigued at how much the baby wants to be with her, how she is calm in her arms and stops crying, and feels safe with her mother. We were able to relate this to God’s love for her, that she is like Elie in God’s arms, calm in His presence, feeling safe, feeling at home, feeling loved. God opened many doors for Mara through this encounter, and showed so clearly how His beating Heart is pursuing her and desiring her healing. Praise Him!

- Samantha Chestney

Knocking on the doors of families living in shelters is one of the greatest privileges of a LAMP Missionary. Shown here are Samantha Chestney and Sarah Mutchler ready to share the love in Jesus’ beating Heart with whomever opens the door.

“Being poor of heart: that is holiness.”

My prayer life has grown tremendously through the many personal encounters of Christ in the people I’ve met, in a way calling me out of myself into the other. I believe my service in LAMP has equipped me with the loving gaze of Christ into my own heart, and that of others, reminding me of the love God the Father has for each and every one of His children. – Cristian Bustos

“Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God’s grace.” #34

Because of God’s mercy I have been serving in LAMP for many years. When I first came I was prompted towards a regular daily prayer life. This happened because I was overcome by and overwhelmed with those who suffer urban poverty. That remains, as well as my need for God in the challenges of this mission. My prayer life continues to grow in gratitude for LAMP and its work and my relationship with God has also grown.

- Ed Greene
“Sowing peace all around: that is holiness.”

Dorothy
(a poem written by LAMP Missionary Sarah Mutchler honoring Dorothy Day, lover of Jesus and the poor)

A soul keeping watch
in the long loneliness, crying out
“Could I ignore my brother
in the words he said, or the way he bled?

For His Kingdom comes when we know each other
I know them and they know me in the breaking of bread.”
And Dorothy heard the poor cry of Lazarus,
she cleansed his wounds that bled
With her tears she said and said
“dear brother Lazarus
I won’t ever let dogs lick your sores again”

Justice shall march before him, and peace shall follow his steps.
“Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take nothing away from your energy, vitality and joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you.”

“Hungering and thirsting for righteousness: that is holiness.”

We celebrate with LAMP Missionary Kevin Wright, who is being ordained to the Permanent Diaconate this Spring. May the Lord in His kindness allow Deacon Elect Kevin to be like St. Stephen in “keeping his gaze towards heaven.” (Acts 7:55)

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My spiritual goal is to console and encourage the poor with short and simple prayers to more deeply connect with God and His people. When the Holy Spirit graces me with such prayerful consolation for another, I’m never the same person afterward. As I draw closer in prayer to those I serve, I draw closer to God, and vice versa. Praying with those I serve is a powerful means toward my own spiritual renewal.

- Deacon Elect Kevin Wright

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