“So faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13

Dear Friends of LAMP:

Those of you who read LAMP’s last Newsletter carefully (Fall & Winter – 2018-19), will recall that before she went to her Eternal Life, Lyn had recommended the theme of that Newsletter be: “Giving Thanks to Our Blessed Mother.” Quite unexpectedly, in her passing Lyn has also made fairly clear what the theme of this Newsletter should be. We were overwhelmed by the countless stories of how people had experienced love through Lyn, how that love had affected, and sometimes changed their lives.

That is what LAMP Catholic Ministries is all about. Our mission is to witness to God’s Love to those who are disenfranchised, on the edge, alone, suffering, broken, fearful, poor. Basically, we are all put on this earth to learn how to love! Human beings were created to love. We weren’t created to find our happiness, our “fulfillment”, by putting our “self” first. We are certainly “tempted” to do that, however. Love is the most powerful force in creation. When we decide, make the choice, ask God’s help, to love in a very difficult situation, things change. We hope you will find it in this Newsletter, and be encouraged to strengthen it in your life and relationships.

Respectfully one with you in His service,

Tom Scheuring, Director

Marybeth & Ed Greene, Pastoral Directors

By God’s grace, for over 20 years, Ed Greene (center) has reached out to the homeless poor around Holy Cross Church on 42nd Street, in Manhattan, and has trained countless LAMP Missionaries in a loving way of evangelizing our sisters and brothers on the street. This photo, and the one on p. 2, were taken the same day. Ed and new LAMP Missionary Kathleen Mawhinney (on right) encountered 2 young homeless women living on the streets, and shared conversation and prayer with them.

“Love is patient; love is kind.”
1 Cor. 13:4

“Our encounters are moments that can affect others for eternity.”
-Lyn Scheuring, Co-Founder of LAMP
Every week a team of LAMP Missionaries goes out to the streets to visit the homeless and invite them to a Christian Fellowship that we facilitate in the Times Square area. There, by God’s grace, we offer a spiritual respite for our suffering brothers and sisters. At the meeting we reflect and share on God’s Word in the Scriptures together. We end by turning to Our Lord in prayers of thanksgiving and petition. We then offer guests something to eat with coffee.

Recently a woman I will call Mary was sitting on a curb. She was very thin and rocked back and forth nervously when we first approached her. She immediately shared her sorrows with us. She didn’t need to speak for us to realize, just by looking at her, that she was someone who experienced great trauma and sorrows in her young life. When we asked if she wanted to come to the Fellowship she refused at first but later she said she would come.

As the meeting went on you could see her get peaceful, and yes, happy, as each of us reflected on the Scriptures. Every one, Mary included, shared how wonderful and important God was in their lives. She was someone who had been unnoticed, passed by a million times, but who came to the Fellowship and experienced being noticed and listened to attentively. It was the love of Jesus in our midst that so touched her bruised and battered heart with joy!

-Ed Greene, LAMP Missionary

In Our Lady’s Hands

As a LAMP Missionary, I am blessed to serve with Brooke, another missionary in LAMP’s longstanding apostolate of visiting a homeless shelter for families to offer prayerful hope and encouragement. It seemed like fewer and fewer people were interested in our invitation to pray and read scripture with them, and we were getting used to hearing a polite “no thank you” every time we knocked on a family’s door.

We realized we needed to set aside more time to pray for our visiting and decided to put the situation in Our Lady’s hands by praying the Rosary. As we prayed, the Sorrowful Mysteries came alive to me in a new way. The Lord’s agony in the Garden became a prayer for mothers who endure the mental strain of fearing that they won’t be able to provide for their children. In the Carrying of the Cross, I prayed for families who are stumbling under the heavy burden of poverty and hopelessness. Our Blessed Mother had opened my eyes to become more aware of how we find her Son, our beautiful Savior, in the people that we visit at the shelter.

Our Lady had renewed my heart for the visiting, but would she also open the hearts of those we served? At first our new zeal seemed to fall flat: again, every door we knocked on stayed closed. After trying every door, we turned to leave, fighting discouragement. Just at that moment, however, a door flew open, and a woman shouted to us, “Aren’t you from the Church? Can you come visit?” We were surprised enough, but then a second door opened and another woman asked us to come in and pray. We couldn’t believe it – far from being too busy for us, people were calling out for us to visit!

We continue to offer the Rosary every time we visit the shelter, and our visits continue to be dynamic, fruitful, and filled with the Holy Spirit. I learned to trust that Our Lady is the real missionary, and that my work is to offer myself as her instrument to carry the love of Christ to her suffering children.

-Kathleen Mawhinney, LAMP Missionary
As a LAMP Missionary, I serve God’s poor and broken people in one of LAMP’s outreaches called the LAMP café, a truck from which we serve those in need with food, a listening and compassionate heart and prayers. One of our weekly sites is in front of a homeless shelter in the S. Bronx. After a number of years serving those in poverty through LAMP I found that each encounter is unique and diverse, filled with many challenges and blessings.

Recently a woman came to the LAMP café intoxicated and appearing to be in distress. After accepting a sandwich and drink, she began to weep and said she prays to God all the time, but “He doesn’t listen to me. Why?” In between her anguished cries she would quote a Scripture passage. I felt utterly powerless to help her, having no words that would comfort her. She did, however, accept Marta (another LAMP Missionary) and me praying with her, after which she left. We shared how powerless we felt during that encounter. I felt all I could do was love her.

During the days following I reflected and pondered as to why I couldn’t find the words to console her. Finally, I experienced the Holy Spirit saying in my heart that sometimes all we can do in encountering another’s suffering is to be present, listen and love them. I then thought of our beloved Co-Director, Lyn, whom God called Home last September, who always told us that the most important thing we can do in serving God’s poor and suffering people is to “Love them.” Words are not always necessary, but listening with an open and compassionate heart communicates the love of Jesus, the closeness of His beating Heart, very eloquently.

“All” We Could Do Was Love Her

-Raul Salgado, LAMP Missionary
“Love does not insist on its own way.”
1 Cor. 13:5

God, dwelling in me
can’t help but kiss the damage
in my precious soul.

Spending Time with God
unbinds every knot I held
tightly to my chest.

Little Things Matter
when its done with Love for you.
let me quench your thirst.
-Alexandra Henry,
LAMP Missionary, from her recent book
songs of freedom,
available on Amazon.com

Jesus said to his disciples
(and to us):
“...remain in my love.”
- John 15:7

LAMP warmly welcomes Kathleen Mawhinney from Prince Edward Island to begin her service with God’s poor. Kathleen studied nursing in college, and along with other members of her family, is a convert to Catholicism.

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We thank Jesus for bringing Alexandra Henry back to serve with LAMP after she received a Master's in social work. She will be on staff, concentrating on recruiting and formation.

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Rebecca Scherrer, from Dayton, OH, will be arriving soon to begin her service with LAMP. Rebecca is a hospital chaplain in Dayton, and we thank our Lord for calling her to LAMP.

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Perhaps you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more about becoming a LAMP Missionary for a year or more. www.lampministries.org.

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!