Dear Friends,

In response to the request of Pope John Paul II, Dioceses around the world were asked to assemble, on a regular basis, the “Ecclesial Movements and New Communities” that have begun in the Catholic Church in modern times. We were quite surprised when Cardinal O’Connor, then Archbishop of New York, invited LAMP Ministries to be one of the ten Movements he invited in 1999, to be part of the Archdiocesan Council of Movements and Communities. At that first gathering, Cardinal O’Connor asked each group to share about their Movement. Never having thought of LAMP as a “Movement,” Lyn and I didn’t know what to say. But when it became Lyn’s turn to speak, the words clearly came to her: “LAMP’s ‘movement’ is the beating Heart of Jesus in His compassion for the poor.”

Those words, that reality, has become the cornerstone of LAMP’s spirituality and awareness, as LAMP Missionaries seek out the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten, to remind them of God’s ever-present love. This Holy Heartbeat of Jesus is an active presence in each of us, seeking to draw us into an ever-greater intimate relationship, and transforming us to grow in love for each other and all others. It doesn’t stop. It doesn’t end. In LAMP it begins within the Community of LAMP Missionaries, as we pray together, serve one another, seek to grow in holiness together, play together, nurture the presence of Jesus in our midst. It is that presence of Jesus that will overflow to those in need whom we serve in the shelter, the hospital, the detention center, on the street, and help them to experience God’s healing and merciful love through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, maybe for the first time. We pray that as you read the witnesses contained here, you will become more aware of the dynamic Heartbeat of Jesus’ love within you. Respectfully one with you in His service,

Tom Scheuring  
Director

Marybeth & Ed Greene  
Pastoral Directors
There can be no question that LAMP Missionaries are truly instruments of God’s grace and mercy."

-Cardinal Timothy Dolan
Samuel came to LAMP café for the first time as we were serving on a recent Saturday. After he received his sandwich, Brooke (another LAMP Missionary) and I invited him to say a prayer. He accepted and began to walk away once we concluded, but the deliberate way he made the sign of the cross made me think that he may be Catholic. So I called out to him again to get to know him more. I asked him if he lived in the neighborhood and he said that he did not but he goes to a drug rehabilitation program which brings him to the area. He opened up and shared his struggles as well as grief over recent losses of family members.

As we continued to talk, Samuel mentioned that when he was in prison, the guards used to take them to Mass. He and his buddy would sing in the choir and he especially loved to sing harmony in the Our Father. He began to sing it right there on the spot and had a beautiful voice! I then asked if he had been to Mass since he left jail. He had a kind of confused look on his face so I continued, “Samuel, you don’t have to be in jail to go to Mass you know!” We laughed together over this but it really dawned on him. All of a sudden I saw in him an awakening of desire to come back to the Church. He had received all his sacraments and had even been an altar boy. Brooke and I took him over to the church to visit the Blessed Sacrament. As we walked through the church he kept softly exclaiming “This is bringing back so many memories, the Holy Water and wooden benches [pews]. Wow.” As we walked through, I kept reminding him, “Samuel, you belong here. This is your home because you are a child of God.”

We said a prayer together before heading back out to the truck. I told him about Mass times and since I could see that this desire and realization that he needs to be back in the Church was coming from within him, I felt led to take it a step further and invite him back to confession as well. He responded so beautifully, “Yeah yeah. I need to be back.” I took him over to the rectory right away and the secretary called the priest while Samuel took a seat. “I need to be back. I belong here. It’s so peaceful.” He kept saying in a quiet voice to himself. And he does belong. He has found his home in the Church!

-Hailey Marie Megge, LAMP Missionary
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!

Announcements

This Fall, LAMP Missionaries Raul & Jennie Salgado were honored by the NY Archdiocese Catholic Charities with a meritorious service award for their many years of loving sharing of Jesus with His blessed poor. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of serving you in this way.

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Perhaps you would enjoy viewing LAMP’s website (lampministries.org) or Facebook to get a fuller picture of what we are about.

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Responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to celebrate “World Day of the Poor,” LAMP Missionaries are busy planning Christmas caroling events with our brothers and sisters who come to the LAMP café for physical and spiritual nourishment. We will sing of God’s great gift of Jesus on the streets together!

A great game of croquet on a beautiful autumn day during our Retreat/Community Days away.