Giving Thanks to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Over the centuries, our Blessed Mother’s role has been constant – to bring Jesus to us, and us to Jesus. Hers isn’t a static relationship. Through this edition of LAMP’s biannual Newsletter, we want to honor her, to thank her for her loving presence, her guidance, for drawing us ever closer to her Son Jesus as we LAMP Missionaries seek to be led by the Holy Spirit in helping the materially poor we serve come to know God’s love. LAMP’s ministries among the poor are spiritual ministries. As LAMP Missionaries, we depend totally on God’s grace to work through us in spiritually guiding and supporting those we serve. Just as our Blessed Mother was instrumental in Jesus assisting the wedding couple when they were out of wine at their wedding reception, she very much wants to assist us (you and us) as we do the work of Jesus, which we are ALL called to do. We share some stories here of the fruit of seeking Mary’s intercession, particularly through the Rosary. There are numerous accounts throughout Christian history of our Holy Mother’s appearances, often to the young, the poor, the humble, those whose hearts are open and committed to Jesus – with messages for all of us. The Immaculate Beating Heart of Mary cares for each person. She is an intercessor above all intercessors, a companion on our spiritual journey, guiding us to greater holiness of life. She doesn’t want us to lose sight of the fact that the reason we are here, on this earth, is to surrender to God’s personal love. She wants to show us the way. Thank you, Blessed Mother Mary.

With gratitude and prayers,

Tom Scheuring
Director

Marybeth & Ed Greene
Pastoral Directors

(Above) An all too common sight on the streets of New York City – sisters and brothers in the Lord sitting or sleeping on concrete, summer and winter, with a yearning in their hearts that only the love of Jesus can reach, and Mary’s Immaculate Heart is drawn to and deeply understands.
"Thanks for that Prayer the Other Day"

LAMP Missionary Matthew Fulton shares this story of a woman whom Jesus deeply touched with His love.

One day while serving with the LAMPCafé (LAMP’s food and prayer truck outreach) in the S. Bronx, I noticed an unfamiliar woman patiently waiting a few yards from the truck. Walking over to her, I welcomed her with a simple hello and asked how she was doing. “Good,” she said casually. “Thank you for that prayer the other day.” I stood looking at her, stammering a bit as I struggled to remember what she was talking about.

Then my jaw dropped as it all came back to me: this was a woman I had met about six months prior while serving with fellow LAMP Missionaries in Times Square Manhattan. She had been sleeping on the streets at that time, and we found her standing near Penn Station with all her belongings. If I remember correctly, she requested prayer for her family and herself (which we did there on the sidewalk), took a Rosary, and seemed to be in great pain.

And now, here she was! I couldn’t believe she had remembered that encounter we had half a year ago. She had a bit more hope in her eyes now. She was off the streets and was eager to take prayer cards to others in the shelter where she was now living.

The way she so casually mentioned our prayer together (“the other day”), made me laugh. The most amazing thing was how God used a few brief moments of loving encounter to work in her heart and life, and make her an apostle!

To express LAMP's solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine, we have printed our message of hope on small cards which we are sending to be distributed by Catholics who are serving the refugees and the war-torn: "You are precious in God's eyes." (cf. Is. 43:4)

From the Consecration prayer of LAMP Missionaries who have chosen to abide with Jesus for life through LAMP:

I acknowledge that the sufferings of those I serve is covered by the Blood of Jesus, and hidden within His wounds. I will love them with the love of His beating Heart and the Immaculate Heart of His mother Mary, as I share in His mission, "to bring good news to the poor." (Lk. 4:18)
Part of Elisabetta’s ministries in LAMP is teaching a Confirmation class each Saturday in a parish in East Harlem. She shares an experience she recently had.

We were reviewing “the moral life” in our Confirmation class, specifically the difference between serious and less serious sin. Toward the end of class on a recent Saturday a student in the back sheepishly raised her hand. When I walked over, she quietly asked me: “Is ... (she named a moral/psychological issue) a serious sin?”

I was taken aback as I was not expecting such a question from this student. I calmly (although perhaps fumblingly) shared the conditions for a sin to be serious, but also tried to talk about the Church’s understanding of choosing an action freely, and the role mental health plays in that. The next week I prayed to the Holy Spirit for a chance to talk with her. As we walked into the church for Mass, she lagged behind and I had the opportunity to ask her about her question from the prior week. I recommended that she encourage whomever it was that she was speaking of to talk with someone — whether a family member, teacher, sister, or a priest. I also offered to speak with her or her friend if she ever wanted to, or to connect her with one of the above. We briefly prayed together.

The following week, as I was gathering my things from class to leave after Mass, I turned to find her standing by me. I asked how her week was, just trying to start a conversation. She referred to our prior conversation and said that things had been better. As we were talking, she told me that although her family does not really pray, she has begun praying more regularly herself, especially the Rosary, and that it has been helping very much. "You know those cards you gave us in class? I put them up by my bed." Some weeks before I had given the girls some of the prayer cards that we make and give out at the LAMPcafé, which offers prayers in both English and Spanish.

I thank the Lord for giving her new graces, especially through the Rosary, and please God will bring healing and peace to completely restore her.

From the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary led by Pope Francis on March 25, 2022:

Holy Mother, God has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity....We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust.
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Announcements

(below) In the midst of the action that makes up LAMPcafé is LAMP Missionary Alexandra Ramsaroop (in the blue checked shirt) who came from Trinidad in January to serve the poor among us.

As you may know, Lyn Scheuring, LAMP’s Co-Director with her husband, Tom, went to her eternal home in September, 2018. Their grandsons, Sebastian and Lukas Leipold, with their Mom, Malissa Scheuring Leipold, wrote a memoir of the time right before she went home to the Lord. The book is called "When My Grandma Went to Heaven," and is available from Amazon.