



*A Catholic canonical missionary community
consecrated to the Beating Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
whose mission is evangelization among the materially poor.*

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The Living Bread

Dear Friends of LAMP Catholic Ministries,

You may be aware that the Bishops of the United States have initiated a three-year campaign to strengthen awareness of and devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Statistics have indicated that many professed Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Through the words of Jesus in the New Testament, the practice of the early Church, and throughout 2000 years, the Catholic Church has held fast to the truth of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

We weren't abandoned by the Father at Jesus' Ascension to His right hand. We aren't left solely to our own efforts. Each one of us is continually in need of God's help to make it through our life's challenges. As was promised, the Holy Spirit offers us His gifts. Jesus also gave and gives us Himself in the Eucharist as Food for our journey thru life. It is how He abides with us until the end, an expression of His love. Mass is the daily privilege and necessity for the LAMP Missionaries.

Many Eucharistic miracles have occurred throughout the centuries. A recent one occurred in 1996, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where a priest put a host, found by a parishioner in the Church, in water to be dissolved and put it in the tabernacle, as is the custom. A few days later the host had become a bloody substance and eventually grew larger than the host was.

A few years later, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) commissioned 5 scientists in New York to test the substance in a blind study. It was determined to be human flesh and blood, a fragment of heart muscle revealing that the heart was living and beating, but was under severe stress, and the blood being of a universal type. Take a moment to reflect on the "real presence" of Jesus in the Eucharist!

More and more Catholic Parishes are offering times of "Eucharistic Adoration,"

where people can come for a time to be in the presence of Our Lord through a consecrated host contained within a monstrance. It is a time for thanking, for petition, for adoration, for reflection, for silence, for listening.

Jesus offers us Himself, as Food for our journey.

One with you in His service,

Tom Scheuring
Director

Marybeth & Ed Greene
Pastoral Directors



"When we receive God in the Eucharist, it is he who receives us!...He welcomes each one of us, helps us to our feet again and again, and assures us of our great worth."

-Pope Saint John Paul II

Like A Child Coming to its Mother

Eucharistic Reflections by LAMP Missionaries

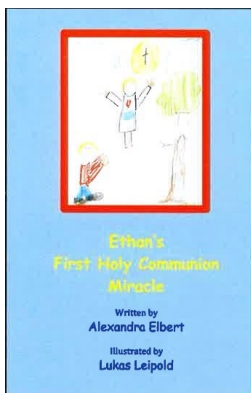
The Eucharist is the heart in which our life at LAMP beats. The Holy Spirit is the blood in which every beat is made possible. I cannot imagine being able to go out and love others without receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. It is He who is Love in us and then therefore becomes the love that pours through us onto others. May Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament come first always in our hearts so that we can be fed our daily bread and go forth to proclaim the Good News. -Sydney

The intimacy with Jesus present in the Eucharist is the source of everything we do, the wellspring of grace that we are privileged to in turn pass on to God's beloved poor. The Eucharist brings unity and peace to our missionary life, and each day provides our spiritual nourishment and assurance that it is not we who serve, but Christ who serves through us. -Kate

Receiving the Body of Christ connects me with the Lord and all other recipients of the Eucharist. I can go forward knowing I am strengthened by forgiveness and love. -Ellen

I receive the One who sends me, who carries me and whom I carry to those we serve. It is in recognizing Him in the breaking of the bread that He opens my eyes also to see Him in the broken, the sick, the poor, those from whom men hide their face, from whom I may be inclined to hide my face. -Elisabetta

(Below) **Ethan's First Holy Communion Miracle:** A children's story about the miracle of Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament, by 2 LAMP Lighter children, Alexandra and Lukas. Perfect for First Communion! Available at Amazon.com.



Sydney, a LAMP Missionary from Louisiana, asks Jesus to provide for a couple who came to the LAMPcafe.

Recently another LAMP Missionary, Kate, and I were in front of an abortion clinic in the South Bronx praying and handing out a pregnancy support pamphlet. This ministry is called "LAMP for Life". As with the other LAMP ministries, we never know who the Lord will bring to us on any given day.

It was right before we were to leave when a rough looking man approached us. He was covered in tattoos, but what stood out the most was his smile. He looked so happy to see us and his eyes were fixed on the string rosaries Kate was holding. He asked in a surprisingly gentle way if he could have one. He then went on to share how he was living at a supervised apartment/shelter. On his door he would hang his rosary. It made him feel safe, but his neighbor has kept cutting it and he had to keep tying it back together. After some further conversation, we prayed together, asking the Lord to give us all peace, and especially peace between this man and his neighbor.

Then I remembered that morning I had placed one of our chain rosaries in our LAMP for Life bag, so I gave it to him. His expression transformed from one of pain talking about his neighbor into an expression of feeling loved and seen. You could tell it meant the world to him. "This is for me? Thank you so much!" He then pulled the rosary close to his heart.

As our ministry was coming to a close, Kate asked if he would like to close in prayer with us. He was more than happy to join us. He said he had never really prayed the rosary before, so we thought we could pray the "Hail Mary" together. She gave him a little rosary pamphlet that contained the prayers and directions for praying the rosary. The image of a little child coming to his mother for guidance comes to mind when Kate was teaching him how to pray.

May His Mother continue to show us the Blessed Fruit of Her Womb, Jesus! -LAMP Missionary Sydney Thomas



(Above) LAMP Missionaries Ellen and Matthew (far left and far right) pray before the Blessed Sacrament at the LAMP Center with Seminarians Nick and Patrice before going out with the LAMPcafe. Each year seminarians are sent from St. Joseph Seminary to serve with LAMP as part of their Pastoral Formation.

"You Guys Changed My Mind"

While serving with the LAMPcafe (LAMP's food and prayer street outreach) in front of a Catholic Church in the S. Bronx, we saw a woman crossing the busy street next to us, in the middle of traffic coming from two lanes in both directions. An angry New York driver blared his horn at her in frustration, but the woman, with her head down and seemingly unaware of her surroundings, did not speed up to get to safety on the sidewalk. Instead, she slowly walked along, without looking up. As she approached the curb near us, we saw a real desperation in her face, as if she would have liked a car to run her over and end things. Elisabetta called out to her to ask if she was alright, and the woman responded with a quizzical look. We invited her over for some hot chocolate, which she gratefully accepted. She then asked what it was we were doing, to which I explained, "We're here mostly to be with people who need some love, and to pray with them". The woman, whose name we learned was Taikeia, responded softly, "Oh yes, I need that."

So we visited and then prayed, Sydney and I, with Taikeia, and called upon the Lord's love and mercy. We prayed through Jesus' most Holy Name and asked Him to show His love to her. Afterwards, Taikeia's demeanor had changed, and we noticed a hint of joy within her. She smiled. After chatting for a bit longer, she walked away saying words that struck me so deeply: "Thank you. You guys really changed my mind."

Wow! Now, the Lord only knows what Taikeia's intentions were prior to meeting us, and what exactly we changed her mind about. But there was undoubtedly a difference from the time before we met her to the time we said goodbye, and that difference was the love of Jesus. *-LAMP Missionary Matthew Fulton*

(Top left) Matthew, a LAMP Missionary from Florida, listens deeply to a gentleman sharing his story at the LAMPcafe. (Middle left) Let the games begin! To balance out a life of compassion and mercy with the poor, sometimes play is most necessary. Whether it is a game of croquet, corn toss or (bottom left) chasing the LAMP dog, Noble, the LAMP Missionaries have a great time together.



"Through the power of Christ's word, those gifts (of bread and wine) become his very Body and Blood, the **only food capable of feeding the deepest hunger of the human heart.**"

-Bishop Robert Barron

Welcome to new LAMP Missionary, **Ellen Cheng** (below, left), who lives around the corner from the LAMP Center, and was a volunteer with the LAMPcafe for some years before becoming a LAMP Missionary.



Welcome also to new LAMP Missionary in Training **Peter Solberg** (below, left), who came to LAMP from Green Bay, WI. Peter previously served there in a shelter for the homeless.



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