

# The Lamp

September/October 2020



**“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”**

Ps.119: 105

Mother of Light Center is blessed to have received approval from the Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, to reserve the Blessed Sacrament at the Center, pending the fulfillment of Canon Law requirements. One of these requirements is the installation of a permanent tabernacle in the chapel area. The tabernacle has been donated by Cotter Church Supplies, and we continue to prepare the new home for our Lord.

Christ promised us that He would be with us to the very end of the world. More than spiritually, though that is awesome indeed, He will now be physically with us, fully with us - body, blood, soul and divinity! Great saints throughout the centuries, like St. Faustina and St. Teresa, knew that uniting ourselves in Spiritual Communion with our Lord, exposed or in the tabernacle, is the most sure way to keep Him in our minds and hearts.



On September 5, we celebrated the feast day of one of our patron saints, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Because she is contemporary, St. Teresa is well known to us and we have been blessed to witness her dedication to serving Christ through serving the poorest of the poor. We are very proud to have her as one of our champions!

***Faith in action is love. And love in action is service.***

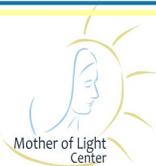
***St. Teresa of Calcutta***



“May the Heart of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection at every moment in all the tabernacles of the world, now and until the end of time. Amen.

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- MOLC by the numbers
- Recommended reading from our spiritual director
- Love in Action
- Message from the Chair



*The Lamp* is the name of the Mother of Light Center (MOLC) newsletter. The name, linked to the word of God, brings light on our paths. It represents life, hospitality, and guidance for the mission, and our hope for our guests and ourselves (volunteers, benefactors, friends) as we embrace “no us and them — only us”.

## MOLC Activities

### MOLC by the Numbers - 2020

	<b># lbs. of food delivered</b>	<b># families served</b>	<b># deliveries</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>5,797.6</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>5,833.75</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>10,237.7</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>18,782.9</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>676</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>29,082.4</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>918</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>31,156.5</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>795</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>46,147.3</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>931</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>40,147.3</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>861</b>
<b>Year-to-Date</b>	<b>187,185.45</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>4,927</b>

### Notes on the Numbers

**In July**, we saw 17% increase in deliveries from the number in June. This did not surprise us, since the pandemic continues to cause extreme financial distress to those we serve.

**In August**, we experienced a drop in the deliveries of 7.5%. We continue to check in with those who receive our deliveries to make sure that their needs are being met and that other groups are not providing duplicate services. The reduction in deliveries for August was a direct result of the food distribution by Casa Chirilagua and ALIVE in the Four Mile Run Road area of Alexandria. However, deliveries in August were still up 8.3% from June's totals.

### Where we serve



Rob (left) and Lina (right) get ready to make the first set of deliveries for the day.

<i>City/Area</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>	<i># families</i>
<b>Alexandria City</b>		
Glebe Rd. area	22305	382
Quaker Lane Area	22302	30
Duke Street	22314	20
Beauregard Street	22311	40
<b>Arlington County</b>		
Fourth Street N.	22203	75
31st Street	22206	20
<b>Fairfax County</b>		
Annandale	22003	20
Richmond Highway, Rt. 1	22306	40
<b>Falls Church</b>		
Bailey's Crossroads	22041	20
Annandale Road	22042	10
<b>Prince William County</b>		
Woodbridge, Rt. 1	22191	27

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## *Love in Action: Going the Extra Mile*

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The mission of Mother of Light Center has always been centered around personal relationships. Seeing the person, not just the situation, is the mission. Seeing the face of Christ in those we serve.

Teresa Cotter embodies this mission. Teresa started walking to work for exercise when the pandemic started. Many mornings, she would pass Richard, Mark, and Marlo, two homeless men and a homeless woman. Teresa is a very compassionate person, and she began to establish a relationship with them - starting with conversation, finding out what they needed, how they lived, which needs could be readily fulfilled, and which needs required a bit of effort.

Some needs were relatively easy: shirts and undergarments for Mark and Marlo, a cart for Marlo's few possessions, and finding a place for them to shower.

After Teresa built trust with Marlo, the issue of shelter came up. Teresa spoke with Matilde Alvarado, the Director of MOLC. Matilde sent an email to Alexandria City's Department of Community and Human Services, telling about Marlo and requesting help. After a few days, a second request was sent and City workers found Marlo, where she had been sleeping under a bridge of Interstate 395 in a dog bed. Blessedly, they were able to place her in a City shelter, which had **one** bed available. Marlo is now

housed in the shelter and is very grateful! And, the City is working towards finding her a permanent home.

Teresa sums up the situation and challenge. "A critical piece of this is to get people what they need that we don't have, like the shelter. MOLC doesn't need to run or have everything, as long as we maintain the connections and can work on behalf of those in need within the existing system and access resources already in place." But without Teresa's determined efforts in forging a **personal connection**, none of this would have been possible.

Richard declined all offers of any help, and Mark was grateful for the shirts and undergarments, but neither man wanted to go to a shelter. Please keep these men and all homeless people in your prayers.



Teresa (left) and Marlo (right) outside the Alexandria Community Shelter.

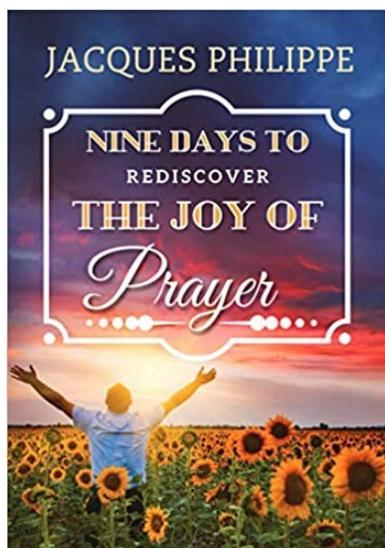
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## *Recommended Reading*

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Prayer changes our lives. Through fruitful prayer, God freely graces us with the gifts of joy, peace, courage, and determination. We can often find, however, that, despite our good intentions, prayer doesn't come easily. We often have obstacles in our path, distractions from the outside or our own internal weaknesses, that keep us from praying or being faithful to our Christian commitment to love. Allow your heart to be guided gently by Fr. Jacques Philippe toward a joyous prayer life that feeds your soul and revitalizes your relationship with the Lord.

Reverend Father Matthew Zuberbueler  
Spiritual Director, Mother of Light Center  
Pastor, St. Anthony Catholic Church

<https://www.amazon.com/Nine-Days-Rediscover-Joy-Prayer/dp/1594173354>

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## Message from the Chair

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Dear Friends:

At the Mother of Light Center, we are continually grateful for our many blessings - the families we serve, the steadfast volunteers, and our generous donors.

As I wrap up this year as Chair of the Board of Directors, I'd like to thank the board specifically. While our board work is behind the scenes, it is a thoughtful and hardworking group of people that are diligent about shepherding MOLC through this time of rapid growth and increased demand. They are very industrious in working to embed good practices and fine tuning the business end of MOLC. This crucial, yet largely invisible group, works to provide a solid organization that complies with government regulations and employs good governance practices. It's been my privilege to serve with them this past year.

We have quite a team at MOLC - the board, the Center volunteers, our patron saints, Saint Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Our Lord! It's good company and it's never dull. We always have room for more at our table, and many talents are needed. Please consider joining us in anyway you feel that your skills or talents could be beneficial to our mission. Contact us at [motheroflightcenter@gmail.com](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com).

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, and know that you are in ours.

God bless you and keep you safe,

Beth Currier  
Mother of Light Center Chair



The Ciatti family decided to give away some toys and household goods by advertising the items as "Free on the curb" on their neighborhood listserv. In addition, they offered their neighbors the opportunity to donate to the Mother of Light Center if they picked up something they could use. A total of \$90 was raised in a few hours! Many people were happy to give and learn more about the center. Our thanks to the family for their support and getting the word out about our work!

### MOLC Board Members

Matilde Alvarado  
Deacon Gerard Marie Anthony  
Dan Cotter  
Elizabeth Currier  
Marcella Hadeed  
Lawrence Holmes, Jr.  
Robin T. Huddleston  
Michele Islas  
Leslie Murphy  
Lisa Soronen  
Rev. Fr. Matthew Zuberbueler

### CORE MISSION

With a coordinated approach, the assistance of volunteers and others in the community, Mother of Light Center is dedicated to love and serve men and women who are poor, needy, and homeless. We provide spiritual support, encouragement and information they need by establishing relationships. We help them identify their talents and potentials, redirect their lives, find jobs and permanent housing, and most importantly, discover how much God loves them.

Mother of Light Center, P.O. Box 1482, Falls Church, VA 22041  
Contact us at: [motheroflightcenter@gmail.com](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com) For more information visit: [www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com)

**MOLC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit, charitable organization, registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A financial statement is available upon written request from the VA Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.**