

The Lamp

January/February 2020



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

Ps.119: 105

A new year. It’s funny how we measure time and progress at the start of a new, fresh year. We are rapidly approaching our first anniversary since opening on February 2, 2019. This issue of the newsletter is the beginning of the third year of publication. And we were incorporated four years ago.

Small numbers. One, three, four. The Mother of Light Center is still so young. But, we’re up and **growing and running**. Sometimes, it boggles the mind and wearies the body. But it **always** strengthens and lightens the spirit. Our volunteers are eager, committed and faithful. They embody the practice of seeing the face of Christ in those we serve.

Nancy Benton, one of our indomitable volunteers, has this to say about our Thanksgiving food distribution day:

“ Mother of Light. It was so clear to me that her presence and guidance were there! The hands, the coordination, dedication and the love expressed were amazing. It appeared to me as if the food was multiplying!

When delivering the goods to the people, their faces were full of gratitude. The smiles on their faces were an affirmation of the great work that is being done at the center and how just a little donation of time can bring so much relief to them. Especially when it’s being done with kindness, patience and joy... all translating into LOVE. Amazing work. I’m so happy to be part of it.”

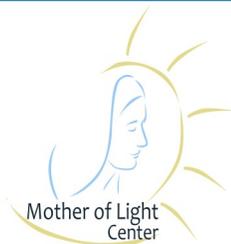
Come be part of this important work. Be part of the growth. Be part of the Mother of Light Center. Run with us!

“This is the most beautiful service we can give as missionary disciples. To prepare the way so that all people may know, meet and love the Lord. May you always be generous with God and with others: one loses nothing thereby, but gains great enrichment in life.”

Pope Francis I

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- 7 Corporal Acts of Mercy and MOLC activities
- Recommended reading from our spiritual director
- 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”.

Christmas at MOLC

Our first Christmas at Mother of Light Center was nothing short of wonderful! The children of our families heard the story of the Nativity and what it means. St. Nicholas was on hand, and over 300 gifts were distributed to each child by name! Thanks to a very generous donation, each family received a crèche scene, in addition to bags of food.



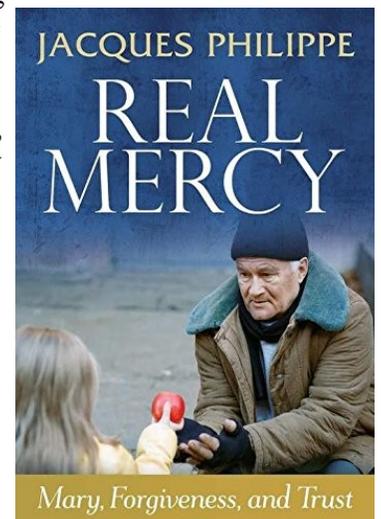
Recommended Reading

In *Real Mercy*, Father Jacques Philippe focuses on mercy, developed from talks given on the first three days of the Year of Mercy beginning Dec. 8, 2015. On that feast day of the Immaculate Conception, he explored how Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is an exemplar of mercy to the Church and the entire world. In a discreet and vital way she dispenses graces and favors with the compassion of a mother. His second essay on forgiveness in families hits home with everyone. No one has escaped the ill feeling and bitterness caused by strife and misunderstanding within the family. Yet the same family is intended to be the path for both earthly and eternal happiness. The author brings to light vivid examples of how lack of forgiveness causes severe damage, while forgiveness heals and restores broken relationships. Finally, he uses the writings of St. Therese of Lisieux to show how trust in God's mercy leads to extraordinary supernatural effects in one's life and in the lives of those one touches.

This is a deep, practical, and powerful book. Though apparently simple, it will challenge the reader to grow spiritually.

https://smile.amazon.com/Real-Mercy-Mary-Forgiveness-Trust/dp/1594172471/ref=sr_1_9

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



The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy and MOLC

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the Gospels. They are a guide for how we should treat others as if they were Christ in disguise. They are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors. They respond to the basic needs of humanity. Here are just some examples of how MOLC works towards fulfilling these works.

1 AND 2 —FEED THE HUNGRY AND GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

MOLC provides food for the poor and needy in the Northern Virginia area. Over 7,500 pounds of food were delivered to our 130 families from September through November in 2019. We served 475 full meals to the homeless every first Saturday at Bailey's Shelter, and provided 816 meals to day laborers and homeless in Shirlington and Annandale.

Additionally, we perform outreach to the homeless throughout the area by providing them comfort bags (seasonal items, snacks, water) and portable food, like sandwiches and fruit.

In December, 443 people received food from our mobile food pantry outreach.

Families in need that are not on our regular distribution list are served by outreach in different areas. Our mobile food pantry outreach goes to where we know there is need and provides a variety of food packages.

3—SHELTER THE HOMELESS

While we are unable to provide shelter directly at this time (and we hope to grow to that ability), MOLC works with social service agencies in Fairfax County and Alexandria to connect homeless persons with the appropriate shelters. We also work with our homeless persons to find housing and to complete paperwork for eventual secure placement.

4—VISIT THE SICK

When we started, our first encounters with the poor and needy were with shut-ins that were experiencing various ailments and challenges. We continue that assistance on a case-by-case basis. This has included finding medical assistance, providing transportation to doctors and dentists, and connecting the sick and lonely with spiritual assistance from priests and deacons.

Over 2,000 homeless persons were reached through our walking outreach program.

5—VISIT THE PRISONERS

Our ministry for visiting those imprisoned has just started by visiting a young man in a local jail to provide comfort and prayer support. We hope to expand on this part of our mission.

6—BURY THE DEAD

We assisted two families in burying their deceased relatives by arranging for funeral and burial services.

7—GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR

We never give cash directly to families, but because of our very generous donors, we are able to provide support and services to so many individuals and families. In 2019 we provided assistance with 7 births, 6 legal aid referrals, 5 baptisms, and many social services applications.

Our distribution events have given out 74 back packs with school supplies, 130 Thanksgiving meals, over 200 winter coats, and 125 blankets to homeless persons.

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends:

It has been a wonderful year! We are filled with gratitude that we've been allowed to serve so many people in large and small ways. We are so pleased to be able to look into their faces and connect with them directly.

Seeing the face of Christ in the people we help is crucial to us. It wouldn't be possible without the constant support we receive from our spiritual director, Father Zuberbueler; the First Friday adoration and Mass that Father Berghout celebrates; the generous support and help from Father Gee; and the many blessings, prayers, and spiritual assistance to our families from Deacon Gerard. These men are unsung heroes for us and those we reach. They provide the burials, baptisms, blessings and Masses that are desperately needed.

As you pray for the Mother of Light Center, please remember to keep our priests and deacon in your prayers also. And be assured that all our friends and supporters are in our prayers daily.

God bless you,

Beth Currier
Mother of Light Center Chair

MOLC Needs

We are 100% volunteer staffed, and work on a shoestring budget. But, we do need support to pay the rent and keep the lights on. Please consider making a donation by going to our website at www.motheroflightcenter.com.



Chrome Wire Shelf Truck.
48x18x69 1,200 lbs. capacity with brakes.
\$328.17 on Amazon.

6 units are needed.

National Public Seating 2200 Series Steel Frame Upholstered Premium Fabric Seat and Back Folding Chair with Double Brace, 480 lbs. capacity, Imperial Blue/Gray (Carton of 4) \$65.52 on Amazon.



20 chairs or 5 sets are needed.

MOLC Board Members

Matilde Alvarado
Deacon Gerard Marie Anthony
Dan Cotter
Elizabeth Currier
Marcella Hadeed
Lawrence Holmes, Jr.
Robin T. Huddleston
Leslie Murphy
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 For more information visit: 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.