

# The Lamp

May / June 2021



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

Ps.119: 105

## ***MOLC Activities:***

**MOLC volunteers and families came together on Good Friday to process through the neighborhoods we serve, led by Father Paul Berghout and Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony.**

## ***Inside this issue of The Lamp:***

- MOLC Activities
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*"The Good Friday procession was a blessed event for the Russell Road area as our volunteers were able to joyfully witness to others. One such event occurred as I gave out an Easter bag to a young man named Luis. I explained to him the purpose of our walk on Passion Friday, that Jesus had died to forgive our sins on this day and will rise on Easter Day. He chose to stay with our group on that windy day, I helped him pull up the hood of his jacket and another woman gave him her gloves. He stayed and had his picture taken with the group and before he left, he gave me a huge hug. He attends mass at St. Rita church (so do I); I told him I hope to see him there one day." Bonnie Marcil, volunteer*



*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".

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## ***MOLC Activities:***

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On April 12, Father Jeb Donlan burns the MOLC Petition Cross, symbolizing a complete offering of our prayers to God.

“My dear friends, in the Old Testament our Jewish ancestors used to offer animals in sacrifice and burn the whole sacrifice in what was called a holocaust offering. The meaning was a complete offering of our prayers to God. Likewise, on Mt. Carmel the prophet Elijah showed the power of the true God of calling down fire from heaven to consume the offering to the true God of Israel on the altar of God. So too we offer the Mother of Light Center Petition Cross to God by consuming our prayer intention in these flames so they may symbolically rise to our Lord as we offered our prayers and sacrifices to God these past 40 days. Blessed be God forever!

In Christ,

Fr. Jeb

Good Shepherd Parish, Alexandria



**March** –Throughout the month, bags of filled Easter eggs were distributed to all MOLC families. Production and donations of these eggs far exceeded expectations. Ten food pantries in Northern Virginia were given our overflow.



**April** – The spring and summer clothes collection is another astounding success! Parishes and individuals throughout the diocese continue to respond with overwhelming generosity. Clothing will be distributed throughout May to the 800+ families we serve.

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## *Message from the Chair:*

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Dear Friends,

Pentecost is fast upon us. Pentecost always make me think of my mother and the tongues of flame. My mom is a very energetic convert. When we were little kids, we celebrated Pentecost vigorously. One of my stronger memories is of my mother making red and yellow tongues of flames out of construction paper and writing the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit – one on each tongue. The tongues of flame were then hung from our dining room light. While at the time we “cradle” Catholics might have thought she was a little too energetic, it is a very fond memory and though I no longer have the twelve fruits memorized, the wonder of Pentecost stays with me and always will. Thanks Mom!

Now as we look forward to Pentecost, it has made me think of how the Holy Spirit has been working within the Mother of Light Center. The Catechism explains it here:

**736** *By this power of the Spirit, God's children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear "the fruit of the Spirit: . . . love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*<sup>129</sup> *"We live by the Spirit"; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we "walk by the Spirit."*<sup>130</sup>

We'll never know most ways He has been at work for us. But sometimes it's clear and astounding. The Good Friday Procession was just one of the many occasions that the Holy Spirit worked through volunteers to reach people in need.

During the procession, one of our volunteers, Nancy noticed a woman sitting on nearby steps. The woman was watching, seemingly detached. Nancy approached her to give her an Easter bag and start a conversation about what the procession meant. She explained that God died for our sins because He loves us so much. The woman began to cry and explained that she was an addict and wasn't sure about that. Nancy emphasized that God loves all of us and wants us to be united with Him. She hugged the woman and kept saying that God loves her. The woman thanked her and said that no one had said that to her before. Nancy continued to comfort the woman, assuring her of God's love.

The Holy Spirit animates us in our work. The Spirit is what makes us effective. Through the advocacy of the Blessed Mother and the assistance of our patron saints, the Holy Spirit moves us to the glory of God. Our real reason for being here after all.

I wish everyone a blessed, fruitful Pentecost.

Beth Currier

Mother of Light Center Chair

<sup>129</sup> Galatians 5:22-23.

<sup>130</sup> Galatians 5:25.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May 31** – Contest winners in our annual Marian art contest will be announced. Submissions will be on MOLC's website at [www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com)

**June** – An essay contest will be held for boys in honor of St. Joseph. Boys and young men from the families we serve will write about the man they most admire and why.

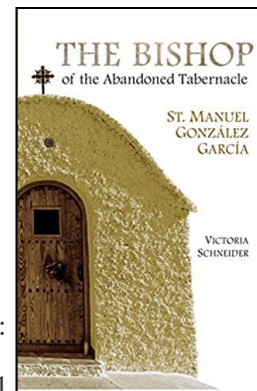


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## ***Recommended Reading:***

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St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia felt called to the priesthood at the age of 12. After his ordination in 1901, he was sent to preach at a church which he found to be unclean and abandoned. There, praying before a Tabernacle covered in dust and cobwebs, with torn altar cloths and oil dripping onto the floor from the sanctuary lamp, he decided to dedicate his life to providing for Jesus' needs in the Tabernacle. The poor, abandoned Tabernacle taught the young priest more about the Love of Jesus than his years of theological study. From that moment, he dedicated himself to spreading devotion to the Eucharist, proclaiming these words which he would go on to choose for his epitaph: "Jesus is here! He is here! Do not abandon Him!" This saintly bishop will help you to receive Holy Communion more fervently and to love Jesus more deeply in Eucharistic Adoration. This book will awaken you to a new experience of Our Lord -- that you may see, hear, love, and console "Love who is not loved."



[The Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle: Saint Manuel Gonzalez Garcia: Schneider, Victoria: 9781594173141: AmazonSmile: Books](#)

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

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## ***MOLC Outreach by the Numbers:***

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Month	# Deliveries	Lbs. of Food	# families served	# people served
January	782	43,664	591	1,903
February	817	43,455	657	2,228
March	792	77,592	564	2,003
April	933	131,771	631	3,497
2021 total	3,324	496,482		

### **MOLC Board Members**

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

### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Wozniak

### **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.

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Contact us at: [motheroflightcenter@gmail.com](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com) For more information visit:

[www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com)

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