

The Lamp

July/August 2018



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

Ps.119: 105

As reported in the last issue of *The Lamp*, the Mother of Light Center needed to adjust our method of providing comfort and assistance to the poor, needy, and homeless because of requirements and challenges encountered in the permitting process. And while our method was changed, our mission has expanded, allowing us to reach more of the area’s needy and homeless.

Happily, the City of Alexandria granted a special use permit to do our work. We were blessed to have a couple of City Councilmen that saw our vision, recognized the need, and supported us. Moreover, they offered the assistance of City and other groups in making our work a reality. It was a fortuitous and blessed conclusion to an arduous permitting process.

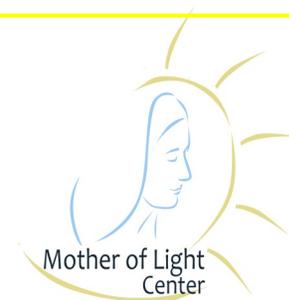
Our work in getting the Center up and running continues. The next phase is securing building and other required permits. We continue to look forward and work on many different fronts in preparation of our opening. We encourage all our friends to consider how you might help. From administrative work to physically getting the building and grounds ready - we have a great deal to do and welcome your participation. As we start the process of doing the required code improvements, we also ask you to prayerfully consider financial assistance. This is an expensive undertaking, and though we’ve been very blessed with donations of talent and time, we are always most grateful for the financial support of our friends.

Please enjoy this issue of *The Lamp*, and keep us in your prayers as we progress in our shared vision and mission.

MOLC has three patron saints: St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Martin de Porres and St. Louis of France. These holy men and woman act as lamps for our paths. They are examples of boundless compassion towards the poor, homeless, abandoned, and needy in their mist. For this reason, they are our powerful patron saints interceding, guiding, and helping us abide in the light. We featured St. Martin de Porres in our last issue. **Please read about St. Louis, King of France, our featured patron saint in this issue.**

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- The life of St. Louis, King of France
- MOLC support opportunities
- Recommended reading
- Message from the Chair

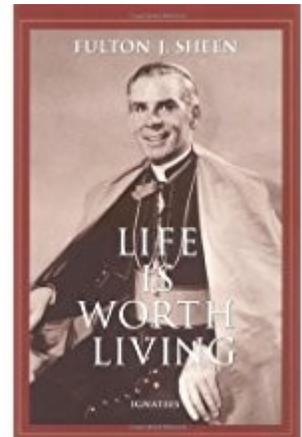


The Lamp is the name of the Mother of Light Center (MOLC) newsletter. The name, linked to the word of God, brings light on our paths. It represents life, hospitality, and guidance for the mission, and our hope for our guests and ourselves (volunteers, benefactors, friends) as we embrace “no us and them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

Recommended Reading

[Life is Worth Living by Fulton Sheen](#). This fine book shares the wit and wisdom of one of the Church's most profound, yet down to earth bishops. He has a lot of practical advice and gives tremendous insights into relationships, the importance of helping others as a means to motivating us to live a better life, relieving anxiety and fears, building character, and so much more. It is a must read for anyone looking to dive into the apostolate and deepen their relationship with the Lord and looking for Wisdom to live out this great gift of life.

Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony
Board Member, Mother of Light Center
Deacon, St. Timothy Catholic Church, Chantilly, VA



Would you like a board member from the Mother of Light Center to come to your parish or group? Just let us know and we will be glad to visit your parish or group to help spread the word of our vision and mission. Please contact us at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com to request a presentation.



Are you a gardener? Do you enjoy the challenge of working with nature to bring beauty to overgrown and difficult areas? If so, we'd welcome your help in beautifying the outdoor area of the Mother of Light Center!

Please contact us at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com.

MOLC Merchandise

Confirmations, graduations, Father's Day, birthdays..... The opportunities for giving are almost limitless! When choosing a gift, why not consider one that also benefits the Mother of Light Center?



The Saint Teresa travel mug holds 16 ounces of your favorite beverage. With a picture of the saint on the front and the MOLC logo on the back, you will definitely be traveling in good company. \$15.00.



A very lovely pendant with of Our Lady of Fatima on the front and the words Mother of Light Center on the back. This pendant comes with an 18" chain. 22K gold. \$20.00

To order these items, please send a check to P.O. Box 1482, Falls Church, VA 22041 or email us at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com. Let us know which you'd like, and how many. Please include your phone number in case we have any questions about your order.

St. Louis, King of France

St. Louis, King of France, was the ninth of his name. He was born at Poissy, France in 1214 . His father was Louis VIII, and his mother was Blanche, daughter of Alfonso VIII of Castille, surnamed the Conqueror. At the age of twelve he lost his father, and his mother became regent of the kingdom. From his tenderest infancy she had inspired him with a love for holy things.

In 1234, he married Margaret, the virtuous daughter of Raymond Berenger, Count of Provence, and two years later he took the reigns of government into his own hands. At his coronation as king of France, Louis IX bound himself by oath to behave as God's anointed, as the father of his people and feudal lord of the King of Peace. Other kings had done the same, of course. Louis was different in that he actually interpreted his kingly duties in the light of faith. After the violence of two previous reigns, he brought peace and justice to his realm.

In 1248, he headed a crusade, in which he fell a prisoner among the Mohammedans, but a truce was concluded and he was set free and he returned to France.

Louis deserves credit for extending justice in civil administration. His regulations for royal officials became the first of a series of reform laws. He replaced trial by battle with a form of examination of witnesses and encouraged the use of written records in court.

Louis was always respectful of the papacy, but defended royal interests against the popes, and refused to acknowledge Innocent IV's sentence against Emperor Frederick II.

Louis was devoted to his people, founding hospitals, visiting the sick, and like his patron Saint Francis, caring even for people with leprosy. He is one of the patrons of the Secular Franciscan Order. Louis united France—lords and townsfolk, peasants and priests and knights—by the force of his personality and holiness. For many years the nation was at peace.

Every day, Louis had 13 special guests from among the poor to eat with him, and a large number of poor were served meals near his palace. During Advent and Lent, all who presented themselves

were given a meal, and Louis often served them in person. He kept lists of needy people, whom he regularly relieved, in every province of his realm.

Disturbed by new Muslim advances in Syria, he led another crusade in 1267 at the age of 53. His crusade was diverted to Tunis and the army was decimated by disease within a month. In 1270, Louis IX died on foreign soil after receiving the Last Sacraments, at the age of 56. He was canonized 27 years later. His feast day is August 25.

Louis was strong-willed and strong-minded. His word was trusted utterly, and his courage in action was remarkable. What is most remarkable was his sense of respect for anyone with whom he dealt, especially the "humble folk of the Lord." To care for his people he built cathedrals, churches, libraries, hospitals and orphanages. He dealt with princes honestly and equitably. He hoped to be treated the same way by the King of Kings, to whom he gave his life, his family and his country.

Saint Louis of France is the Patron Saint of barbers, grooms and the Secular Franciscan Order.

Sources:

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-louis-of-france/>
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=470



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends:

“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) These words are the charter of the Mother of Light Center; they are its foundation stone, its motive power, and what will guarantee success as we begin the implementation of MOLC activities.

The Mother of Light Center’s central interest is the pursuit of a relationship with poor, needy and homeless men and women to accompany them in their discovery of how much God loves them.

A study, *Assessing the Faith-Based Response to Homelessness in America: Findings from Eleven Cities* from Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion (Feb. 2017)¹ reveals that faith-based organizations’ efforts are working. Among the categories evaluated were physical, emotional, spiritual (faith, discipleship, church), social and vocational services.

How do you change lives? It comes from creating a relationship with them and building trust. Researchers discovered that faith-based organizations’ relational approach leads to a deeper understanding of the complexity of homelessness and better outcomes for their clients and cities. Faith-based organizations believe that in order for members to best serve their needy neighbors, they must get to know them. “Instead of being a kitchen cook, you’d be out at the tables with the people.”

“People don’t become poor and homeless when they run out of money, at least not right away. They become homeless when they run out of relationships. And this means that the solution to homelessness necessarily involves a reestablishment of relationships and community.”

As we call one another to respond, we are reminded by Fr. Henri Nouwen that “The mystery of ministry is that we have been chosen to make our own limited and very conditional love the gateway for the unlimited and unconditional love of GOD . . . wherever HE guides them, always trusting that, with HIM, they will find life and find it abundantly.” Henri J. M. Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*

Service and love of neighbor are an experience of mystery, surrender and awe. To put it all together, a reflective Mother of Light Volunteer Retreat, “Christ’s Face Unveiled,” is being planned for late summer. Specific information will be distributed by email to all our friends. You won’t want to miss it! We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of signing up. If you are interested, please email motheroflightcenter@gmail.com or call (703) 508-5289.

Please remember to keep the Mother of Light Center in your prayers as we continue to lift up all our friends and supporters in ours.

God bless and keep you always,

Matilde Alvarado, Mother of Light Center Chair

¹ <https://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/doc.php/281857.pdf>

MOLC Board Members

Rev. Fr. Matthew Zuberbueler
Deacon Gerard Marie Anthony
Matilde Alvarado
Evangeline Ganuelas
Elizabeth Currier
Lawrence Holmes, Jr.
Robin T. Huddleston
Leslie Murphy

CORE MISSION

With open hearts and hands we welcome those who struggle, poor and homeless men and women. We seek to provide peace and prayer and accompany them in their journey of stability and hope so they might glorify God with their lives.

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.