

The Lamp

March/April 2018



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

Ps.119: 105

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Puzzled, the righteous will ask when they did this, and he will reply, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

*This is a powerful evocation of Jesus' teaching about the **mutuality of our love for God and neighbor**. The absolute love for God is not in competition with a radical commitment to love our fellow human beings, precisely because God is not one being among many, but the very ground of our existence.*

*Someone who operated very much in the spirit of this teaching was **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**. A writer was once conversing with her, searching out the sources of her spirituality and mission. At the end of their long talk, she asked him to spread his hand out on the table. Touching his fingers one by one as she spoke the words, she said, "**You did it to me.**"*

Bishop Richard Barron,
Word on Fire

MOLC has three patron saints: St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Martin de Pores 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. They possessed abounding love and far-reaching self-giving service that turns into a gift for us as we get to know them. For this reason, they are our powerful patron saints interceding, guiding, and helping us abide in the light. **Please**

read about St. Teresa of Calcutta, our featured patron saint this month.

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- The life of St. Teresa of Calcutta
- MOLC support opportunities
- 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”.

Recommended Reading

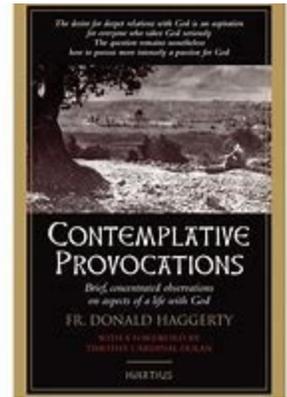
Something Deeper

In the days of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter we find many invitations to accompany our Lord Jesus. In prayer we “seek His face”, trying to imagine Him but more importantly to grow closer to Him. When we serve the needs of others we can find the Lord’s presence in mysterious but real ways.

As Spiritual Director let me recommend this short reflection from a favorite (but intense) book, *Contemplative Provocations* by Fr. Donald Haggerty:

“We can never know with the poor whether the faces we observe are going to pass away, leaving no trace in our memory, or, very differently, whether the weariness and pain in a certain face will return to our mind and become our own at an hour when we thought ourselves to be content without companionship. This, too, may be a sign of Jesus’ presence in that earlier encounter.”

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



MOLC Merchandise

Mother’s Day, 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 lovely 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. Teresa of Calcutta

Small of stature, rocklike in faith, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was entrusted with the mission of proclaiming God's thirsting love for humanity, especially for the poorest of the poor.

She was born on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia and given the name Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Her father, a well-respected local businessman, died when she was eight years old, leaving her mother, a devoutly religious woman, to open an embroidery and cloth business to support the family. After spending her adolescence deeply involved in parish activities, she left home in September, 1928, for the Loreto Convent in Ireland, where she was admitted as a postulant on October 12th, and received the name of Teresa, after her patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux. The Convent sent her to India, and she arrived in Calcutta on January 6, 1929; there she joined the Loreto novitiate in Darjeeling, where she made her final profession as a Loreto nun on May 24, 1937, and thereafter was called "Mother Teresa." While living in Calcutta during the 1930s and 1940s, she taught in St. Mary's Bengali Medium School.

On September 10, 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received what she termed the "call within a call," which was to give rise to the Missionaries of Charity family of Sisters, Brothers, Fathers, and Co-Workers. That call was an inspiration that revealed the mission she would give to her new institute: "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls," by "laboring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor." On October 7, 1950, the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially erected as a religious institute for the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, Mother Teresa expanded the work of the Missionaries of Charity within Calcutta and throughout India. On February 1, 1965, Pope Paul VI granted the Decree of Praise to the Congregation, elevating it to a pontifical society. That year, the Society expanded its mission to Venezuela, and, three years later, to Europe and Africa. By 1980, there were 158 Missionaries of Charity foundations around the world. Mother Teresa opened the first novitiate outside Calcutta in London; houses in Australia, the Middle East, and North America; Croatia; and East Berlin. In the 1990s they spread to almost all of the communist countries.

In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mother Teresa spoke at the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly in October, 1985. On Christmas Eve of that year, she opened "Gift of Love" in New York, her first house for AIDS patients.

From the late 1980s through the 1990s, despite increasing health problems, Mother Teresa travelled across the world for the profession of novices, opening of new houses, and service to the poor and disaster-stricken. New communities were founded in South Africa, Albania, Cuba, and war-torn Iraq. By 1997, the Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members, and were established in almost 600 foundations in 123 countries of the world.

In July 1997, after a summer of travelling to Rome, New York, and Washington, in a weak state of health, Mother Teresa returned to the Motherhouse in Calcutta, where she died on September 5th. Her body was transferred to St Thomas's Church, next to the Loreto convent where she had first arrived nearly 69 years earlier. Hundreds of thousands of people from all classes and all religions, from India and abroad, paid their respects. She received a state funeral on September 13th, her body being taken in procession through the streets of Calcutta. Presidents, prime ministers, queens, and special envoys were present on behalf of countries from all over the world.

Less than two years after her death, in view of Mother Teresa's widespread reputation of holiness and the favors being reported, Pope John Paul II permitted the opening of her Cause of Canonization. On 20 December 2002 he approved the decrees of her heroic virtues and miracles.

Mother Teresa was canonized on September 4, 2016. Her feast day is September 5.

Source: http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20031019_madre-teresa_en.html

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them. . . Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."
Saint Teresa



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

As we see the first signs of spring, it is as if God himself is breathing new fresh life into his creation. All the beauty that surrounds us, tender green shoots emerging from the earth, color, freshness, as if spring is saying hello in a gentle and lovely way, “rejoice and await in joyful hope.”

As I write this, it is snowing and the arrival of spring seems to be on hold. It feels like the weather is mirroring our holding pattern as we await the permitting process to fully unfold so we can move forward with our renovation. It is our great hope that the next newsletter will have positive news on the special use permit application now pending in the City of Alexandria. We’re excited that our hearing is set for May 1. This is a significant milestone in this process.

While waiting for the necessary permits, we continue to be busy in the preparations for renovating, opening, and operating the MOLC. At times it seems daunting, but we are fortunate to have a strong and involved board and take encouragement

from our donors, benefactors, and the many people who have given their time and talent generously.

Our thanks go out to the many people that continue to support our work financially. Below you’ll see supplies from our wish list that have come in by direct purchases from Amazon through our website, motheroflightcenter.com. These items have been arriving anonymously, so I hope the senders are reading this and know how grateful we are.

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

God bless and keep you always,

Matilde Alvarado
Mother of Light Center Chair



MOLC Board Members

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

CORE MISSION

With open hearts and hands we welcome those who struggle, poor and homeless men and women, to a place of peace and prayer to receive nourishment 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.