

# *The Lamp*

March/April 2019



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

Ps.119: 105

We’ve had an amazing start since our official opening on February 2! If you haven’t seen the opening ceremonies, go to our website, [www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com). We were fortunate to have many dignitaries from the Diocese and the City. If you’d like to visit the Center, please let us know.

What a busy month! A quick review of our February activities shows that we hit the ground running.

The Center was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary on February 21 in a beautifully moving enthronement ceremony.

Two training sessions were held for volunteers. We would love to see you at the next sessions. They are scheduled on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

The American Heritage Girls continue to spread the word about how to make sleeping mats for the homeless. We have 3 church groups learning how to make them. And youth groups have been active in work in the Center. Eleven youths and 5 parents received orientation, sorted supplies and made comfort bags. Three of these families decided to have their homes enthroned!

Comfort bags were distributed to homeless throughout the area. Lunch was served to the day laborers and homeless in Shirlington and blankets, socks, toiletries and other items were distributed to the homeless in Alexandria.

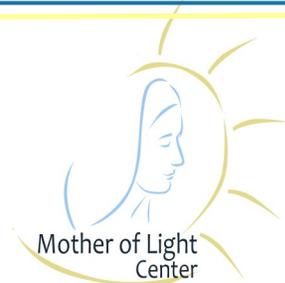
Two visits were made to senior citizens. Stuffed animals were given out, and time, conversation and prayer made the visits something special.

Grounded in respect, fellowship, and prayer, we reach out directly to those in need. We’ve been richly blessed by

this work and are thankful for your prayers and support. We can’t wait to see what will come next. We hope you’ll be with us on this journey.

## *February by the numbers*

- \* 60 comfort bags distributed
- \* 38 lunches served, socks and other items distributed.
- \* 36 seniors visited
- \* 45 prayer kits distributed
- \* 1 homeless lady taken to the dentist
- \* 4 volunteer sessions for packing and sorting
- \* 2 meetings with possible partners
- \* 2 training sessions held for over 20 volunteers
- \* 1 person assisted with passport application



*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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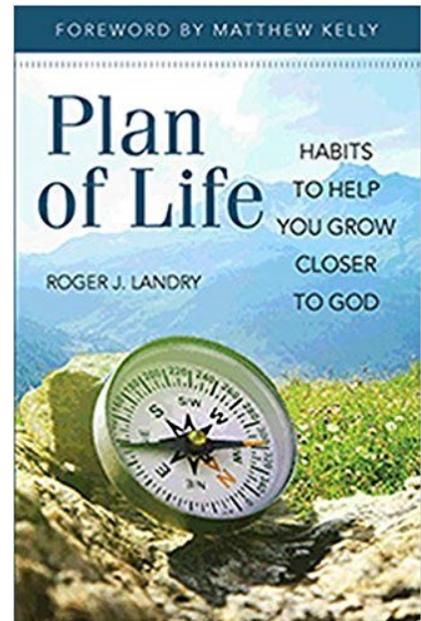
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## Recommended Reading

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This book is meant for teens and adults of all educational levels who aspire to spiritual growth. It's also a great aid for parents and grandparents who need help in teaching children and young people how to grow in God. There are many Catholics who are not familiar with having a plan of life that includes these basic elements. Many Catholics would like to grow spiritually, but don't know where to start and would welcome this practical approach. Father Landry provides accessible, and helpful ways for developing a plan for living our faith and growing in holiness. At a time when so many voices are competing for our attention, and some are calling us in the wrong direction, this book guides us through the steps of strengthening our spiritual life and our participation in the life of the Church.



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

<https://smile.amazon.com/Plan-Life-Roger-J-Landry/dp/0819860433>

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## Help Needed

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As our ministry grows, so do our needs!

We need **volunteers to help us in our outreach activities**. In addition to distributing food and other necessities to the area's homeless and poor, we need **volunteers that can help with individual cases—men and women that need specific help**. This would entail working with another volunteer in handling the needs through the Center.

**Professional Assistance** is also needed. Are you a dentist or doctor who can do limited pro bono work? An attorney that will be able to provide direction in processing paperwork for social security, immigration, or other needs? A social worker to provide direction and ideas as we navigate through the various government services? **And, for the Center itself, we are in need of a CPA** to review the work of our treasurer to make sure we are using the best practices possible.

Please consider donating your time and talents to our Center and those we serve. We promise to be mindful of your time! Contact us at [motheroflightcenter@gmail.com](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com).

### **Items we need for spring/summer bags:**

Laundry detergent (travel and regular sizes).  
Paper Towels

T-shirts (L, XL, XXL and XXXL men's)  
Men's underwear (pants)  
Small bottles of water  
Hand wipes  
Socks—summer weight  
Potato chips (snack size)  
Bus cards—any locale

What is in our prayer kits? A blessed rosary, a pamphlet showing how to pray the rosary, a holy card, the Mother of Light card with her prayer on the back, and a message of hope and love.

What is in our comfort bags? Water, snack food, little candies, and seasonal items, like socks and wipes in the summer, and gloves and chapstick in the winter.

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## *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*

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St. Elizabeth was born in Hungary on July 7, 1207 to the Hungarian King Andrew II and Gertrude of Merania. As soon as her life began, she had royal responsibilities pressed upon her. While Elizabeth was very young, her father arranged for her to be married to Ludwig IV of Thuringia, a German nobleman. Because of this, she was sent away at the age of four for education at the court of the Landgrave of Thuringia.

She was just six-years old when her mother was murdered by political rivals. From this point on, Elizabeth's perspective on life and death dramatically changed and she sought peace with prayer.

Happiness returned to her young life in 1221 when she was formally married to Ludwig, whom she deeply loved. The couple had three children, two of whom became members of nobility and the third entered the religious life, becoming abbess of a German convent.

Elizabeth lived a life full of prayer and service to the poor. Ludwig, now one of the rulers of Thuringia, supported all of Elizabeth's religious endeavors even though she was a part of the royal court. She began to lead an austere simple life, practiced penance, and devoted herself to works of charity. She used her royal position to advance her mission for charity.

Her greatest known miracle occurred when she was still alive, the miracle of roses. During one of her many trips delivering bread to the poor in secret, Ludwig met her and asked her questions to erase everyone's suspicions that she was stealing treasures from the castle. He asked her to reveal the contents under her cloak, and when she did, white and red roses had replaced the bread.

Another living miracle involved a leper lying in the bed she shared with her husband. Her mother-in-law discovered Elizabeth had placed a leper in the bed, and enraged, she informed Ludwig. Annoyed with the situation, Ludwig removed the bedclothes and instantly the "Almighty God opened the eyes of his soul, and instead of a leper he saw the figure of Christ crucified stretched upon the bed."

In 1223, Franciscan friars arrived in Thuringia and taught 16-year-old Elizabeth all about Francis of Assisi's ideals. She then decided to live her life mirroring

his. She wore simple clothing and set aside time every day to take bread to hundreds of poor people in her land. Ludwig and Elizabeth were politically powerful, yet lived with a remarkable generosity toward the poor.

In 1226, when disease and floods struck Thuringia, Elizabeth took to caring for the victims. She gave clothing and goods to the afflicted people. She had a hospital built and provided for almost a thousand poor people daily.

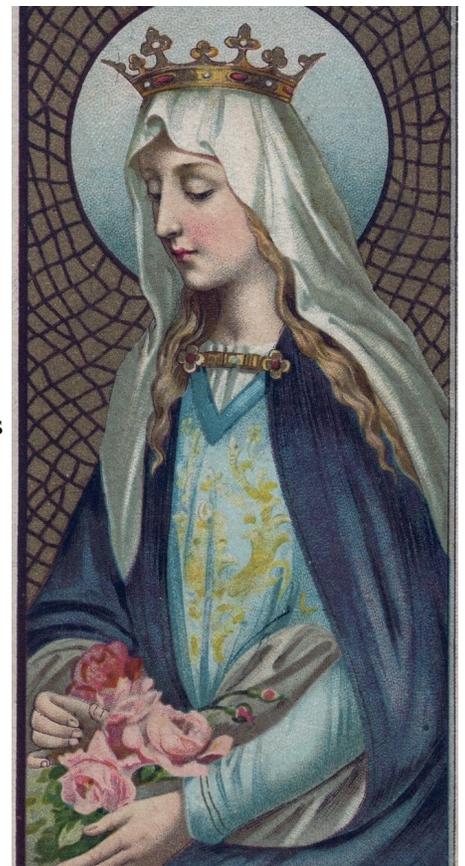
Her life was full of love and faith. However, tragedy struck when Ludwig passed away from illness in 1227. Upon hearing the news, she said, "It is to me as if the whole world died today." Elizabeth vowed to never remarry and to live a life similar to a nun, including making a vow of celibacy, despite pressure from relatives to remarry.

In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Third Order of St. Francis. She founded a hospital in honor of St. Francis, where she personally ministered to the sick and provided support to the poor.

Elizabeth's life was consumed deeply by her devotion to God and her charitable labor. She passed away at the age of 24, on November 17, 1231. After her death, miraculous healings occurred at her graveside near her hospital. Pope Gregory IX canonized her on May 27, 1235.

St. Elizabeth's feast day is celebrated on November 17. She is the patron saint of bakers, beggars, brides, charities, death of children, homeless people, hospitals, Sisters of Mercy, and widows.

St. Elizabeth has been praised by Pope Benedict XVI as a "model for those in authority."



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## Message from the Chair

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Dear Friends:

*...all that is good, all that is perfect, is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light... James—1:17*

So many blessing have come our way. A special one came on March 19 on the Solemnity of St Joseph, when Mother of Light Center received permission from Bishop Michael Burbidge for Fr. Paul Berghout to bless the movable altar and celebrate the first Holy Mass. A priest's relative donated the altar at the Visitation Chapel. It is simple and made of natural cedar wood. This reflects the nature of our call to serve our Lord in a simple and humble way.

The practice of keeping a reminder of the saint by having a relic of them began in the early church. MOLC received a gift of three first class relics (part of the saints body): St. Thomas Aquinas (doctor of the church); St. Maria Goretti (martyr); and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (patron saint of our diocese). Fr. Daniel Gee, pastor of St Rita Catholic Church in preparation for the blessing, placed the relics underneath the altar. In a solemn ceremony the altar was blessed with holy water and incense.

At each Holy Mass celebrated here we rejoice with all the saints in heaven.

*“When he broke open the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the word of God.” – Rev 6:9*

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

*Mother of Light Center will be celebrating Holy Mass every first Friday of the month starting with the holy rosary at 6 PM followed by Holy Mass at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in attending, please let us know by calling (703) 508-5289 or e-mail at [motheroflightcenter@gmail.com](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com)*

### 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 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.**