

The Lamp

November/December 2018



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

Ps.119: 105

Our progress continues on the building on Clifford Avenue in Alexandria. The construction is complete, and we expect the final inspection from the City of Alexandria by the end of November. From there, we move on to painting and other cosmetic preparations.

We have so many people to thank for this progress. Jim O’Brien from O’Brien and Keane Architects, provided us with the excellent architectural drawings. Denis O’Keefe was first-rate in overseeing the construction process from start to finish. John McLaughlin and Victor Portillo are coordinating the final work on the building to get us up and running near the end of the year. So many people have contributed their time, talents and treasures. We are truly blessed to have such fine support.

Unfortunately, we still have the final construction bill of \$30,000 to pay. Please consider helping us make the bill.

With God’s help, we will be opening in early January. We are going to hit the ground running, immediately starting with training for our volunteers. Please see page three of this newsletter for the schedule. You’ll also have a chance to see how you can help. We have a place for every person and every talent!

As we move through this process and get ready for the real business of the Mother of Light Center, we’re reminded of the formidable Mother Angelica. Starting EWTN in 1978 with just \$200 and 12 cloistered nuns with no television experience, she built an empire. EWTN has become the largest re-

ligious media network in the world, transmitting programming 24 hours a day to more than 148 million homes in 144 countries and territories.

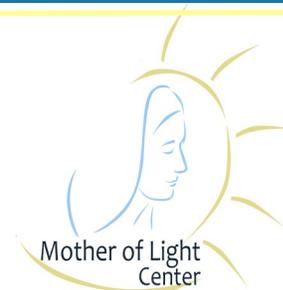
She is a remarkable role model, showing us what faith can do. Complete and utter faith in God. We fervently hope to follow her example as we begin our ministry in our new home.

“Faith is what gets you started. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what brings you to the end.”

- Mother Angelica

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- MOLC support opportunities
- Volunteer training schedule for January
- Recommended reading from our spiritual director
- Message from the Chair



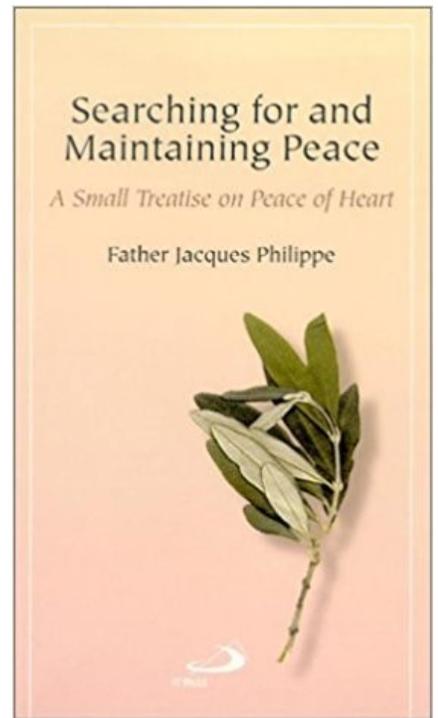
The Lamp is the name of the Mother of Light Center (MOLC) newsletter. The name, linked to the word of God, brings light on our paths. It represents life, hospitality, and guidance for the mission, and our hope for our guests and ourselves (volunteers, benefactors, friends) as we embrace “no us and them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

Recommended Reading

In an age characterized by agitation and lack of peace, our search for God and holiness, in our service to our neighbor, this restlessness and anxiety take the place of the confidence and peace which ought to be ours. What must we do to overcome the moments of fear and distress which assail us? How can we learn to place all our confidence in God and abandon ourselves into his loving care? This is what is taught in this simple, yet profound treatise on peace of heart. Taking concrete examples from our everyday life, the author invites us to respond in a Gospel fashion to the upsetting situations we all encounter. Since peace of heart is a pure gift of God, it is something we should seek, pursue and ask Him for without cease.

One of my favorite books! A kind of ‘broad-range antibiotic’ for what ails us, particularly good for learning to trust in God’s care for us.

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



In time for Christmas! MOLC Gifts

There is still time to get some great gifts and support the Mother of Light Center!

Please email us at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com to place an order. Please include your phone number, and we can arrange for delivery in time for Christmas morning.

1. 16 oz. MOLC Travel Mug with St. Teresa of Calcutta. With a picture of the saint on one side and the MOLC logo on the other. This mug makes sure you’re traveling in good company! \$15.00
2. MOLC Christmas ornament. Beautiful goldtone with lovely blue center. Limited number available. \$15.00
3. Lovely pendant with Our Lady of Fatima on the front and the words Mother of Light Center on the back. The pendant comes with an 18”chain. 22K gold. \$20.00



Volunteer Training

Following on the World Day of the Poor, we invite you to join the Church in responding to the need. How? Through prayer and direct action! Sign up for the Mother of Light Training for volunteers.

In time for our long awaited opening, we have 4 sessions of training available in January.

January 5: 9:00—10:30AM
11:00AM—12:30PM

January 12: 9:00—10:30AM
11:00AM—12:30PM

Please call 703-508-5289 or email motheroflightcenter@gmail.com to sign up for any of these sessions.

After January, we will hold volunteer training on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

We have many needs, many jobs, many opportunities. Would you like to work inside the center? You could prepare supplies for outreach visits, prepare clothing for delivery or by appointment distribution, or provide administrative assistance, to name just a few. If you'd like to work directly with those in need, you could be part of a team that goes out to make home visits, deliver packages of food/clothing to those in need, go out to places where homeless men & women are to deliver food, comfort items, and connect with them directly. These are just some examples of the many ways you could help. Please join us!

Save the date for the MOLC Spring Bazaar!

March 3, 2019

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

More information to follow....



More from the Retreat.....

Deacon Gerard Anthony relayed this story at the retreat. Here is the story originally told by Sr. Bethany Madonna, Sister of Life.

A priest was called in by the police to help with a distraught teenage girl who stood atop one of the columns of the Golden Gate Bridge. The Police tried everything but to no avail. So the priest prayed, took off his shoes, and began to climb along the ropes. He was terrified, scared of heights, and was visibly horrified! Then the girl saw this short man with a roman collar coming up the cables for the bridge. She spoke, "Good job, you're almost there!" She then, feeling special, started to think to herself, "Wow, he thinks I'm worth it!" She then began to cheer him on. When the priest finally got to the top of the column, the girl pulled him up and he knelt down in a moment of silence. He finally spoke, "How are we going to get down?!" The girl answered, "I'll help you. We'll do it together. I'll go first." So she walked down and the priest followed slowly, still terrified. When they made it all the way to the bottom, everyone was cheering and was amazed, saying "Way to go Father!" and "Wow, what did you say?" He then looked up from being in fetal position down on the ground and said, "She saved my life!"

When we take the time to give of ourselves to help others, to connect a bridge of God's love to them; we end up with something too, our lives are saved. So we must bridge people to God's mercy through having a love for the poor, abandoned, and forgotten.

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends:

A heart felt thank you to all of you who participated in the grace-filled Retreat for Volunteers on October 27, 2018 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Charlene Unterkofler from St. Vincent de Paul Society, one of the attendees, shares her experience:

“What a refreshing experience to be among like-minded Catholics, united in prayer and service to the suffering, the poor, the forgotten and the lost. A beautifully framed image of “Mary, Most Holy Mother of Light” was on display to exemplify the vision of this group...helping those in need, heart to heart; building lives of meaning and hope for the glory of God.

Father Matthew Zuberbueler, Spiritual Director of MOLC, shared such vivid stories of the Saints that I felt their presence in the room as great models to be followed in this humble pursuit. Deacon Gerard Marie Anthony touched my heart with his love of our Blessed Mother and genuine support of this mission. In fact, the dedication of everyone involved in this effort since May of 2015 was not only evident, but inspiring. As a newcomer, the spirit of the group was welcoming and there are many opportunities to love and serve Jesus to go around. The need is great and there is much to be done - the laborers will not be few.

The interesting part is that everyone walked away enriched, as seen in the small group presentations at the end of the retreat. With minds and hearts tuned to Matthew 25, we are the loving instruments to make it all happen.”

The service of the saints gives great insights on how service to others brings meaning and fulfillment to our lives in a way that wealth, power, possessions and self-centered pursuits can never match.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us in service. Please review our volunteer training schedule in this newsletter. To sign up or for more information, email us at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com or call 703-508-5289.

Pope Francis proclaimed Sunday, November 18th as the Second Annual World Day of the Poor. He noted “On this day, may all of us feel that we are in debt to the poor, because, in hands outstretched to one another, a salvific encounter can take place to strengthen our faith, inspire our charity and enable our hope to advance securely on our path towards the Lord who is to come.”

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 you 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
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

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.