

# The Lamp

May/June 2018



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

Ps.119: 105

*“Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.”*

*Pope Francis*

As a result of difficulties in the permitting process, the Mother of Light Center is adjusting our method of providing comfort and assistance to the poor, needy, and homeless. At first, while those difficulties seemed insurmountable, it wasn't long before we realized what an opportunity was provided to us.

While our method is changing, our mission is **expanding** to reach more of the area's needy and homeless. The Center will serve as a resource and referral center for the 12 Catholic churches within a 10-mile radius of the Center. These 12 churches will be the source of our referrals for service, support, and volunteers. Our approach will be to go out to those we seek to serve with practical assistance and spiritual support.

A major part of our mission continues to be contact with homeless people, going out and reaching them where they are to provide supplies, refreshment, and a personal connection. Each area church knows where its homeless populations are and will guide us in reaching them.

We will also provide practical direct assistance to the disadvantaged and needy through our field outreach program. This program will distribute food and emergency clothing to the poor and needy on a referral basis from the 12 churches.

We will keep our friends advised of our progress on this next phase of permitting. The City will hold a hearing in mid-June, and we hope to have happy news to share then.

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. Teresa of Calcutta in our last issue. **Please read about St. Martin de Porres, our featured patron saint in this issue.**

Inside this issue of *The Lamp*:

- The life of St. Martin de Porres
- 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”.

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## ***Recommended Reading***

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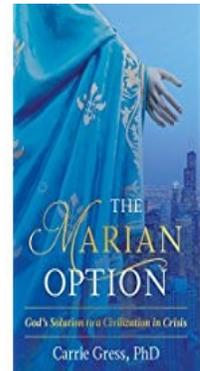
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*The Marian Option: God's Solution to a Civilization in Crisis*

By Carrie Gress, PhD

Since it is the month of May, I recommend a book dedicated to our Blessed Mother. This book speaks of how our Blessed Mother should be at the center of any plan to renew society/culture. It has information on devotions, explains in a marvelous way how she has affected history, and how the Marian Option (what the Church calls the call to holiness) is what must be at the heart of life.

Deacon Gerard-Marie Anthony  
Board Member, Mother of Light Center



### **How to help a homeless person in 3 little steps.....**

**#1 - Acknowledge & Engage — Smile and say hello. Acknowledge the homeless person. Talk to him or her.**

**#2 - Be Ready to Help Today — Give them something to eat or a bottle of water.**

**#3 - Help in Any Season — In winter, give a pair of gloves, a scarf, or a blanket. In summer, a clean Tshirt, water, toiletries.**

**Get Involved! Help Mother of Light Center by volunteering or donating today!**

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## ***MOLC Merchandise***

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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 compa-



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](mailto: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.

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## *St. Martin de Porres*

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St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru on December 9, 1579. Martin was the illegitimate son to a Spanish gentleman and a freed slave from Panama, of African or possibly Native American descent. At a young age, Martin's father abandoned him, his mother and his younger sister, leaving Martin to grow up in deep poverty. After spending just two years in primary school, Martin was placed with a barber/surgeon where he would learn to cut hair and the medical arts.

As Martin grew older, he experienced a great deal of ridicule for being of mixed-race. In Peru, by law, no descendants of African or Indians were allowed to become full members of religious orders. Martin, who spent long hours in prayer, found his only way into the community he longed for was to ask the Dominicans of Holy Rosary Priory in Lima to accept him as a volunteer who performed the most menial tasks in the monastery. In return, he would be allowed to wear the habit and live within the religious community. When Martin was 15, he asked for admission into the Dominican Convent of the Rosary in Lima and was received as a servant boy and eventually was moved up to the church officer in charge of distributing money to deserving poor.

During his time in the Convent, Martin took on his old trades of barbering and healing. He also worked in the kitchen, did laundry and cleaned. After eight more years with the Holy Rosary, Martin was granted the privilege to take his vows as a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic by the prior Juan de Lorenzana who decided to disregard the law restricting Martin based on race. However, not all of the members in the Holy Rosary were as open-minded as Lorenzana; Martin was called horrible names and mocked for being illegitimate and descending from slaves.

Martin grew to become a Dominican lay brother in 1603 at the age of 24. Ten years later, after he had been presented with the religious habit of a lay brother, Martin was assigned to the infirmary where he would remain in charge until his death. He became known for encompassing the virtues needed to carefully and patiently care for the sick, even in the most difficult situations.

Martin was praised for his unconditional care of all people, regardless of race or wealth. His life reflected his great love for God and all of God's gifts. It is said he had many extraordinary abilities, including aerial flights, bilocation, instant cures, miraculous

knowledge, spiritual knowledge and an excellent relationship with animals. Martin also founded an orphanage for abandoned children and slaves and is known for raising dowry for young girls in short amounts of time.

During an epidemic in Lima, many of the friars in the Convent of the Rosary became very ill. Locked away in a distant section of the convent, they were kept away from the professed. However, on more than one occasion, Martin passed through the locked doors to care for the sick. However, he became disciplined for not following the rules of the Convent, but after replying, "Forgive my error, and please instruct me, for I did not know that the precept of obedience took precedence over that of charity," he was given full liberty to follow his heart in mercy.

Martin was great friends with both St. Juan Macías, a fellow Dominican lay brother, and St. Rose of Lima, a lay Dominican.

In January of 1639, when Martin was 60-years-old, he became very ill with chills, fevers and tremors causing him agonizing pain. He would experience almost a year full of illness until he passed away on November 3, 1639.

By the time he died, he was widely known and accepted. Talks of his miracles in medicine and caring for the sick were everywhere. After his death, the miracles received when he was invoked in such greatness that when he was exhumed 25 years later, his body exhaled a splendid fragrance and he was still intact.

St. Martin de Porres was beatified by Pope Gregory XVI on October 29, 1837 and canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 6, 1962. He is the patron saint of people of mixed race, innkeepers, barbers, public health workers, and more. His feast day is November 3.

Source: Catholic Online,  
[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=306](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=306)



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## ***Message from the Chair***

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Dear Friends:

“If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you the midday“ (Isaiah 58:10). These words of the prophet Isaiah inspire the Mother of Light Center volunteers who will extend the MOLC mission in word, action and prayer—in small acts of love and mercy. Volunteers will be a tremendous resource; volunteers will run the center.

For the past three years, I have been a volunteer at the Father McKenna Center in DC, and this adventure has changed my life. It has made my heart glow with warmth and gave me a purpose beyond myself.

**I invite you to sign up to become a Mother of Light Center volunteer—a light bearer!**

MOLC’s expanded mission means bountiful opportunities for volunteering. The MOLC mission will be expressed in two primary ways. General reaching out - accompany men and women experiencing homelessness, reaching them where they are to connect and share essential supplies and our hearts. And mobile care – provide practical direct assistance to the disadvantaged.

This program will distribute food and emergency clothing to the poor and needy on a referral basis from churches and other partners.

### **What MOLC volunteer opportunities are available?**

**Activities at the center:** Help in the office, assist with special events and community outreach events, preparing packets for delivery, and more.

**Activities outside the center:** Volunteers for our community assistance teams will attend a training program prior to participation. Activities include delivery, transportation assistance, serving meals, distribution of supplies, referrals to community services, prayers and petitions. Priests and deacons will be invited to provide spiritual ministry.

We thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity to volunteer for MOLC. Keep in mind how you would like to benefit from the experience. If you are interested, please email [\*\*motheroflightcenter@gmail.com\*\*](mailto: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

### **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](mailto:motheroflightcenter@gmail.com)

For more information visit: [www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com)

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