



## **A School of Evangelization**

Dear Friends of LAMP,

Encountering persons in need! Before the pandemic it was much easier to avoid or ignore or block them out of our consciousness - but no longer. They are in our family, among our acquaintances, in the food lines, on the streets. LAMP is privileged, indeed honored, to be able to serve some of those with a little food, conversation and prayer. They are being noticed. They seldom, if ever, deny an opportunity to be prayed with. While many of LAMP's outreaches are temporarily suspended, LAMP's street ministry in midtown Manhattan, and the LAMPcafé continue to encounter persons in great need.

This issue of LAMP's bi-annual Newsletter contains witnesses of individuals serving with other groups who have been able to help LAMP because "everything had changed" with their usual routine, and they were now available. Some have assisted LAMP even before this health crisis. From the beginning of LAMP, almost 40 years ago, we saw LAMP also as a "school of evangelization", because of the training opportunities it provides both the LAMP Missionaries and those who volunteer. Through this service of encounter and prayer, we grow in experiencing joy and Jesus in those we serve. We give great thanks to God for this opportunity. Would you consider helping us?

Tom Scheuring, Ph.D.  
Director

Marybeth & Ed Greene  
Pastoral Directors

---

## **Affirmation of Dignity**

Serving with Ed and LAMP was a beautiful opportunity for my team to serve the Body of Christ. Ed guided us in encountering Christ in the poor, leading us to recognize Him not only in them, but also the beauty of being living witnesses of His love to all we meet. In our conversations on the streets, I found a renewed recognition of the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Some people were happy to talk, others were reserved, while others were simply concerned with how we could help them. We met all with listening hearts and words of love and affirmation of dignity. I can confidently say that I met Christ in each person. I pray that they met Christ in each of us.

*Paul A Wessel, Team Leader  
Focus Missionary, Columbia University*

*Ed Greene, LAMP's Co-Pastoral Director, and NYU student volunteer, a member of FOCUS, encounter and pray with a gentleman who is homeless.*



*Connor Smith, a Jesuit Scholastic (Seminarist), encounters and prays with a guest receiving a rosary at the LAMPcafé in the Bronx.*

## Surprised!

I ran into LAMPcafé on my way home from St. Ignatius School- a Jesuit Catholic middle school in the S. Bronx, where I teach. The canteen truck with Our Lady of Guadalupe on its sides had so many people coming, so I was curious. The LAMP Missionaries welcomed me and explained the ministry: encounter and accompany Christ in the poor. How simple and beautiful! When my school went online, my Missionary friends invited me to serve with them. The actions are simple: share food and lemonade with anyone who wants, visit with them, and invite them to pray.

I am always surprised by how many welcome the invitation to pray. They always have an intention and many express tears of gratitude that we listen and together



offer our praise and petitions to God. The people we encounter are close to God because they have learned to rely on Him for everything. Their faith, trust, and joy are precisely what fill my heart. LAMP has become a light in my week (pun intended) and I am grateful that they welcomed me into their community of radical hospitality.

*Connor M. Smith, SJ*  
*Jesuit Scholastic at Fordham University*

## A Classroom of Love and Prayer

Each Spring, LAMP Ministries schedules its LAMPcafé ministry so that seminarians of St. Joseph's Seminary can work with them in their ministry of sharing food and faith with the poor. For many of the men, this is a new experience. They are not merely serving meals, they are relating to, praying with, and bearing witness to those who come to the canteen truck hungry for sustenance and for Christ's words and presence. And each Spring the men have been moved by the witness of the dedicated LAMP Missionaries, and truly formed by the people whom they serve. As they develop the discipline of attentive listening, they discover that the human heart longs for so much more than just bread. As they learn to take the initiative to approach those being served, they learn humility and charity. The LAMPcafé for them becomes a precious classroom of love and prayer.

*Fr. Richard Veras*  
*Director of Pastoral Formation*  
*St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY*



*We cannot but be edified by the young people from FOCUS (above) and young seminarians and postulants who are assisting LAMP, stepping out of their comfort zones and embodying the words of Jesus: "I have come to serve" (Mt. 20:28) by sharing faith with the materially poor in a time of uncertainties and opportunities.*



## Closer to the Father

For the past five years, we have brought our Postulant Sisters to volunteer with LAMPcafé on a monthly basis. Within our own Community, we run soup kitchens and food pantries and have daily contact with the materially poor. Serving with LAMP gave our Sisters the opportunity to step out of our familiar apostolates and to engage with and evangelize Christ's beloved poor in a different setting. In the training we received before volunteering, Ed Greene shared with us the beautiful insight that every time the Gospel is shared with the poor, it is a sign of the presence of Christ's kingdom: *"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them"* (Matthew 11:5). As I went out to serve at the LAMPcafé the day of that training, my experience of serving the poor was different. I was aware of Christ's kingdom *everywhere* as I witnessed each LAMP Missionary and the Sisters I had come with, encounter and share, not just food, but truly Christ Himself with



*Sr. Mary Pietà, CFR, (l) and a Postulant (r) visit and pray with guests at the LAMPcafé.*

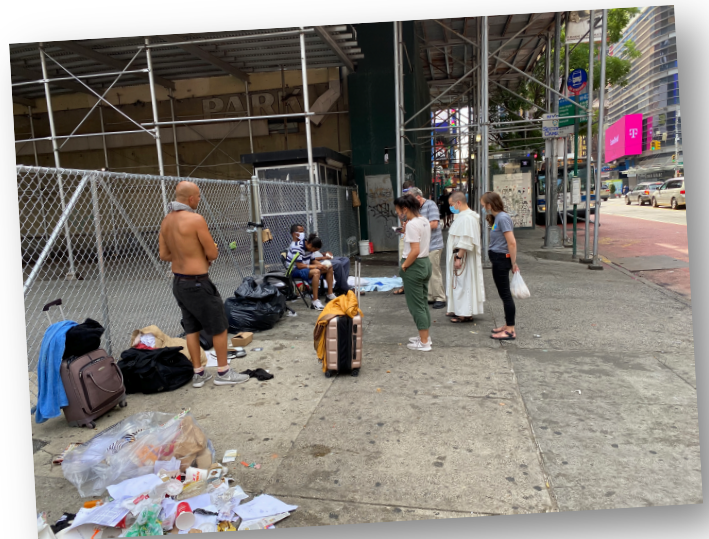
the poor. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks after His lost sheep relentlessly. Our Sisters were able to imitate Christ as we sought to bring the poor closer to the Father through prayer and relationship. In each encounter, Jesus is seeking them through us and us through them. In this holy pursuit, His Kingdom is established!

*Sr. Mary Pietà, CFR  
Postulant Directress*

## The Answer to Every Longing

We are very fortunate to be able to take some of the students we work with at New York University to encounter the homeless on the streets in Manhattan with LAMP Ministries. We are thrilled to see them encounter our Lord in the poor. This enables us to talk with them about tending to the spiritual poverty we find on our campus. Though we can't see this poverty, it's real and needs attention from the living witness of students at NYU, proclaiming Jesus and His Church. We know that students will encounter Jesus in a tangible way in the poor they serve. As they see what it's like to tend to the wounds of physical poverty in the body of Christ, students can have a deeper grasp of the meaning of tending to the invisible poverty, the hunger young people have for something that nothing in the world can satisfy. All of us are beggars ourselves who have found bread, pointing others to where they can find the bread of life, Jesus himself, the answer to every longing of their hearts.

*Darin Howell, FOCUS Missionary  
New York University*



*LAMP Missionary with NYU FOCUS Missionaries and Chaplain visit and pray with people living on a Manhattan street by Times Square.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAMP welcomes **Tim Stillman** (*left*) from the Chicago area, who (after a 2 week quarantine) has come to serve the Lord's beloved poor in NYC in spite of the global pandemic. We pray that he be filled with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit as he serves each day.



\* \* \*

As it is turning colder and we are visiting the homeless/hungry on the street, a simple need that we see is for **socks**, primarily for men and women, but also for children. If you are able to send LAMP some new socks for our sisters and brothers who need them, we would be very grateful, and it will please our Lord, we are sure!

\* \* \*

LAMP was awarded a matching grant from the William E. Simon Foundation for 2020. Would there be any readers who could contribute to a matching grant of \$4,000 to support LAMP Missionaries listening to, praying and reading Scripture with, the materially poor in NYC. Only the part of a donation that exceeds your previous donation can be considered towards this matching grant.

\* \* \*

LAMP is registered with **Amazon Smile**, and we humbly ask you to consider making LAMP your "Charity" on their website. If you go to **smile.amazon.com** to place your order, you can register, choose **LAMP Ministries (Bronx, NY), Rom. Cath.** as your charity, and then order as usual. A small percentage of your payment will be donated to LAMP by Amazon. Thank you!

**LAMP Catholic Ministries is possible only by the grace of God and your prayers and financial assistance. Please help us**, by making a donation in the enclosed envelope, through PayPal, using Amazon Smile, and/or ***including LAMP Ministries in your Will.*** **LAMP Ministries is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, not for profit organization. Thank you!**