



## PRAISE IN INTERCESSION

**N° 183**  
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How easy it is to shout and sing for joy to the Lord when we feel gratitude. But it is not so easy, when things are not going our way; when we are in the worst possible situations, when illness visits us, death knocks on our door and betrayals destabilise us. Yet it is precisely at this time that we need, perhaps more than ever, to praise God, for praise is a way to help us maintain faith. Indeed, praise can transform even our darkest circumstances, perhaps not in the sense that it changes the facts around us, but in the sense that it can change us and those around us in a way that helps us face challenges. Praise is faith in action. Remember what happened to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25-26) *"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed."*

When we practise worship to the extent that it becomes a natural part of our lives, it has the power to liberate, convert, heal and conquer. Praise integrates the other forms of prayer and brings them before God, who is their source and end goal.

In praise, we intercede!

**Françoise & Luc DJOKA,**

**Responsible Couple for the Intercessors of the Eurafrica Zone.**

## FR. PAUL-DOMINIQUE MARCOVITS' SPIRITUAL LETTER, O.P.

### Praise and Intercession



"The person who gives thanks attracts thanks." This saying of Saint John of the Cross can be taken as a motto or at least a way of life. Indeed if we already thank those who help us out, all the more reason to thank the Lord for all that he gives us. In return, delighted with our trust in Him, with this trust that saves us, God is ready to give us even more. When someone thanks us for what we have done for them, we are ready to do it again! This is the logic of good neighbourliness, friendship, love! Let us thank God.

Praise goes perhaps further than thanksgiving, than thanks. We praise God not only for what he gives us, but also for what he is. We tell him of our love simply because he is there, because he is good, because he loves us and also because we are there, alive, standing, free before him. We praise him, because he is our life. Saint Paul says, "To live is Christ." A very practical statement that goes

beyond all the graces that God has given us.

Intercession is asking the Lord for such and such simple or very important thing; thanksgiving is saying thank you to God; we know these two types of prayers well. But there is something even more important, and we discover it as we go through our life: praise: marvelling at God, simply for what he is. It is free. Those who love each other know this. One asks the other for something and immediately thanks them. But both of them know very well that this exchange of a gift is the expression of an attentive love, which is the source of the whole relationship between them. It is free. It is steady. It is forever. This is how we, people in general, are made for each other. The more we help each other, the more we discover ourselves: we look up and we see love, friendship, or in any case, these positive links between us, which are woven into our human relationships. *"Where charity and love are, God is there,"* is an often repeated Christian liturgical antiphon.

The psalms are made of complaints, cries of distress, intercessions, thanks to God for his help, but also praise to God! It is all connected. Prayer has multiple layers and shades that are interrelated. We must not lose any of the prayer types : they tell God what we are at different times of our lives.

They say what God is for us. So, God lives with us, in us; we can just talk to him. He listens to us and is always happy when his children talk to him. "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for *this is what you were pleased to do.*" (Luke 10:21).

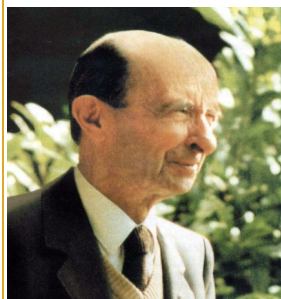
**Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.,**  
**Spiritual Counsellor to the Intercessors.**



## THE PRAYER OF PRAISE

Brothers and Sisters, today we will give space to the dimension of praise in prayer. We will take our cue from a critical passage in the life of Jesus. After the first miracles and the involvement of the disciples in proclaiming the Kingdom of God, the mission of the Messiah undergoes a crisis. In this disappointing moment, Jesus raises a hymn of jubilation to the Father. Jesus blesses and praises the Father. First and foremost, he praises Him *for who he is*: Father, Lord of heaven and earth. Then Jesus praises the Father *for favouring the little ones* who welcome his message. In the future of the world and in the hopes of the Church there are always the "little ones" who, in God the Father, recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. In that moment of apparent failure, Jesus prays, praising the Father. His prayer leads us to judge our personal defeats in a different way. The prayer of praise is helpful to us. It must be practiced above all in difficult moments, where we get to see a new panorama, a broader horizon. There is a great teaching in that prayer that Saint Francis composed at the end of his life in the midst of difficulty: the "Canticle of Brother Sun" or "of the creatures". He praises God for everything. The Saints show us that we can always give praise, in good time and bad, because God is the faithful Friend, and his love never fails.

### Father Henri Caffarel's Prayer



**"Glory to God in the highest!"**

"I go down into myself, to the depths of my heart, God's dwelling place, abyss of light, abyss of fire, where the Triple Love blazes in eternal silence. I want to sing: Glory! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God in the depths of hearts! Glory, glory! Glory everywhere, the Glory of God in the heart of a rock, as in the heart of the star that twinkles in the night. The Glory of God in the heart of the rose, in the heart of the lark that sings wildly. Glory of God in the heart of the newly baptised person. Dazzling glory of God, deep in the hearts of saints consumed with charity. Brethren, we are "the people whom God has acquired for the praise of his glory." Together let us proclaim: Glory! Glory! Glory everywhere! The Glory of God! Glory to God now and always, forever and ever! Amen! »

**Father Henri Caffarel.**

### Prayer of Intercession

Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did. He is the one intercessor with the Father on behalf of all men, especially sinners. (Cf. Rom 8:34; 1 Jn 2:1; 1 Tim 2:5-8.) He is "able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." (Heb 7:25) The Holy Spirit "himself intercedes for us . . . and intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom 8:26-27)

Since Abraham, intercession - asking on behalf of another has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God's mercy. In the age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ's, as an expression of the communion of saints. In intercession, he who prays looks "not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others," even to the point of praying for those who do him harm. (Phil 2:4; cf. Acts 7:60; Lk 23:28,34)

The first Christian communities lived this form of fellowship intensely. (Cf. Acts 12:5; 20:36; 21:5; 2 Cor 9:14) Thus the Apostle Paul gives them a share in his ministry of preaching the Gospel (Cf. Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:3-4; 1 Thess 5:25) but also intercedes for them. (Cf. 2 Thess 1:11; Col 1:3; Phil 1:3-4) The intercession of Christians recognizes no boundaries: "for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions," for persecutors, for the salvation of those who reject the Gospel. (2 Tim 2:1; cf. Rom 12:14; 10:1)

**Catechism of the Catholic Church**

**Part Four : Christian Prayer**

**Section one: Prayer in the Christian Life N°2634-2636**

## PRAYER FOR INTERCESSION AND PRAYER FOR PRAISE

### Saint Francis of Assisi's Prayer for Praise

**Let us praise and glorify Him forever!**

“Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, Who is, Who was and Who is to come. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. O Lord our God, You are worthy to receive praise, glory and honour and blessing. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. The Lamb Who was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity, wisdom and strength, honour and glory and blessing. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Let us bless the Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit: And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Sing praise to our God, all you His servants and you who fear God, the small and the great. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Let heaven and earth praise Him Who is glorious. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Every creature in heaven, on earth and under the earth; and in the sea and those which are in it. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And let us praise and glorify Him forever. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. And let us praise and glorify Him forever.”

**Let us pray :** “All-powerful, most holy, most high, supreme God: all good, supreme good, totally good, You Who alone are good, may we give You all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honour, all blessing and all good. So be it! So be it! Amen.”

### TESTIMONIALS FROM THE EURAFRICA ZONE



#### OUR LIFE OF INTERCESSION: A GIFT FROM GOD

When we were called in May 2020 to be the Correspondent Couple for the Intercessors in the Cameroon-Chad Region, we were not yet Intercessors. We took it as a new calling from God to accept this responsibility. This is why we did not hesitate to respond positively whereas previously it took 4 months to agree to become the Responsible Couple for the only Douala Sector at the time. No sooner called than we adhered and committed, with the beneficial support of Bénédicte and (the late) Théophile Guentange, former FRR and FRSAF, and one of the first Intercessor couples in the Region. Reading the abundant literature on the subject and the Intercessors' Letter edified us every time. The celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Intercessors has further galvanized and motivated us. As Team members, we have become accustomed to praying for each other, respecting the Mystique of the Teams of Our Lady movement on the principle of Mutual (spiritual) Aid. Our assiduity in personal prayer and prayer as a couple has fostered our regularity in this exercise that we can no longer give up. It is truly a time of joy to pray for others; a moment of intimacy with the Lord who always listens and answers our prayers according to his will.

We experience it with great humility and trust in God. However, we experienced a moment of doubt after a few cases when the sick people for whom we were interceding died... What is all the more motivating is that as a couple, we experience this commitment with fervour, because we can help and relieve some of the miseries of those in our community. (continued on next page)

### THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2023

#### July For a Eucharistic life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

#### August For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

#### September For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

## THE INTERCESSORS

### Contact us:

EIAIFatima2018@gmail.com

### Find us on:

intercesseursmobile.org

<https://www.equipes-notre-dame.fr/deux-poumons/les-intercesseurs/>

## WATCH & PRAY

### GENERAL INTENTION

**TURIN 2024 !**

**LET'S GO WITH A BURNING HEART !**

Let us pray for the organisation of the big gathering in Turin 2024

- ♦ For the different committees
- ♦ The speakers
- ♦ The Participants
- ♦ The Security of the participants and

*"When Christ unites a man and a woman through his Sacrament, it is to found a sanctuary, this sanctuary that is a Christian home, where He, Christ, can celebrate, with this couple, through this couple, the great filial worship of praise, adoration and intercession that he came to establish on earth".*  
*Father Henri Caffarel*

Intercession in the couple brings us closer to each other; and at the same time gives us pleasure and joy in praying for the family. So, we have taken this call as a gift from God, which allows us to live permanently in his intimacy. We have taken advantage, when the opportunity arises, to explain the benefits of Intercession and to invite other Team members to join us, in constituting a greater active force. We keep insisting on the fact that "EVERY TEAM MEMBER IS AN INTERCESSOR". Yes, one of the missions of the couples in the Teams of Our Lady movement is to pray for couples in distress. It is a grace offered to them to bring them closer to God.

**Béatrice & Simplicie MBARGA AMOUGOU, correspondent Couple for the Intercessors Cameroon-Chad Region.**



Our names are Cristiano & Francesca Trenti (Team MO4). We have been married for 25 years and have been members of Teams of Our Lady for the past 13 years. We have three children : Anna who is 23, Carlotta who is 22 and Daniele who is 16 . We live in Emilia-Romagna in the north-east of Italy and we both work in health sector: Cristiano is a surgeon and Francesca works as a secretary in a general practice. We have been Intercessors for the past 5 years.

There are 243 Intercessors in Italy. We pray together with them using WhatsApp and e-mails. We mainly receive the prayer intentions on Francesca's phone; we pray for them together every evening and then send the prayers on to the Intercessors' group along with a message. We also write out the intentions we receive in a small notebook that Cristiano takes to work with him and every morning, he entrusts these intentions to the Virgin Mary, who 'lives' in the small chapel in the hospital where he works. On Sundays, during Holy mass at our parish, we once again entrust the intentions sent to us during the preceding week.

The service of being the Correspondent Couple for Italy is a precious gift for us, because it reminds us once again that we are never alone: when the ordeals become too much to face, we feel that there is a community nearby, who prays with us and all the difficulties become much lighter to bear.

We have also a better understanding what Father Caffarel used to write on intercessory prayer: we know very well that our prayer is very poor, lazy, hesitant and full of distractions. But it is a small trickle that flows into the great river of the Church's intercession and through it, plunges into the immense ocean of Christ's intercession. Christ, glorious at the right-hand of the Father, intercedes ceaselessly for us. (Fr. H. Caffarel, *Présence à Dieu, cent lettres sur la prière*). In the mutual sharing of our fragilities, our small intercession becomes part of a great ocean of prayer, in which the world is immersed under God's benevolent gaze and embrace.

**Cristiano & Francesca TRENTI,**  
**Correspondent Couple for the Intercessors in Italy.**

### EIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us carry in our prayer the Gathering of Team Members of Our Lady in **TURIN** in July 2024: may this time of thanksgiving be an occasion for fervent intercessory prayer for families, couples and the Church. **Intercessors: Don't miss this great meeting! Sign up!**