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# *"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I WITH THEM."* (MT 18:19-20)

Dear Intercessor Brothers and Sisters,

Our names are Silvia and Chico. We are from Brazil and have been married for 51 years; our daughter and son are married, too and we have three grandchildren. We have been in the Teams of Our Lady Movement for 48 years. We coordinate the Intercessors of the Americas Zone, made up of four Super-Regions: Hispano-America North and South, Colombia, and Brazil.

In this letter, we would like to offer you a brief reflection on the experience of brotherly love makes us part of a community of faith. But it is not enough to be together, indeed there is only one reason that must underpin it all: we are gathered in the name of Christ! Without this, we are just any group, with good ideals and good deeds, but we are not the Mystical Body of Christ, where He is the Head. In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2, verse 42, the importance of the community as a space of unity is emphasised, and its fundamental characteristics are set forth here: listening to the Word, living in communion, breaking Bread, and prayer. Thus, the first Christians bore witness to the glory of God, proclaiming the majesty of Jesus Christ through their community life, and from this they set out on their mission.

It is not without reason that the Catechism of the Catholic Church (§ 294) teaches, "*the glory of God is man fully alive; moreover man's life is the vision of God,"* based on Saint Irenaeus' teachings in the first century. But what is "a man fully alive": Is it his breathing? The beating of his heart? Jesus tells us, "*I have come that all may have life, and have it abundantly.*" (Jn 10:10) The man fully alive is the one who is imbued with divine life, who receives the breath of the Holy Spirit and who reflects like a mirror some of the immense characteristics of God. Among the means through which we immerse ourselves in the intimacy of God's life is prayer, which Fr. Caffarel so valued and taught, including to those of us dedicated to intercession. The key to human behaviour, the fundamental reference

for being alive, is to give glory to God. Prayer, adoration, and praise open the way to a full life in God. Common prayer is the path that leads us to the waters of the Holy Spirit.

Participating in the life of God entails the grave duty of spreading his love so that people and the world may be better. This is why the Intercessors strive to bring to God the needs and intentions entrusted to them. It is a task of love, compassion, and solidarity. May we make this community of intercession a place of sharing, comfort, and peace, which reaches us through the constancy of our prayers in the blessed intimacy of God's love.

With all our friendship,

Silvia & Chico Pontes,

Responsible Couple in the EIAI for the Americas Zone.

# FATHER GERVAIS N'SOUGAN'S SPIRITUAL LETTER THE URGENCY OF INTERCESSION TODAY

Christ, Son of the living GOD, is the great and unique Intercessor, the only Mediator between God and mankind. He fulfilled the will of the Father to save all humanity. He is seated at the right hand of his Father, who is our Father. Jesus associates us with this work of salvation. Jesus makes us witnesses and also Intercessors.

Intercession is not the prerogative of a group of people who have been specially selected or who have a particular gift. God's Word clearly tells us that every Christian is called to intercede. The reason is simple: God loves us all. God did not send his Son into the world to save only a small group of chosen disciples. He sent his Son "*so that the world might be saved through him*." (Jn 3:17) God wants "*all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*." (1 Tim 2:4).

As such, every Christian has a special role to play in the salvation of all humanity. We, as Team members and Intercessors who follow Jesus, share the responsibility for the salvation of the rest of the world. Faced with the deterioration of Christian morality in our families, in the Church, and in the political and social environment in which we live, we must become aware of this responsibility.

God's Word reminds us that failure to intercede is a grave omission, "Let me not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you." (1 Samuel 12:23). Satan seeks to dominate the world. As Pope Paul VI stated in 1972, "We would say that (...) through some crack, the smoke of Satan has entered the Church of God." When the Church no longer intercedes for the salvation of humanity, it gives the powers of darkness the opportunity to expand and act upon the world.

Father Henri CAFFAREL, a prophet of our time according to the words of Cardinal Lustiger, an apostle of marriage and a master of prayer, seeing the difficulties of his time, which remain relevant today, was inspired to launch the Intercessors, "They bring the great intentions of the Church to God. They will intercede for all humanity."

Father Gervais Raoul N'SOUGAN, Spiritual Counsellor to the Intercessors

### **THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS**

### April: For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

#### May: For working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

#### June: That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

#### **GENERAL INTENTION**

Merciful Lord, we place before you Pope Francis, your faithful servant and guide of your people. Grant him strength and health, renew his spirit with your peace, and sustain him in his mission of love and service to the Church. Amen.

#### INTERCESSION IN THE COLOMBIA SUPER REGION

We are called Leonardo and Clarita Muñoz Acevedo, members of Team 25 in

Pereira, Colombia. We have been married for 41 years and have been members of the Teams of Our Lady Movement for 29 years. It is with gratitude and humility that in December 2024 we answered the call to lead the Intercessors in the Colombia Super Region.

In this short space of time, we have come to understand the magnitude of this service: being Intercessors is more than a job; it is a journey of faith, love, and dedication, a mission of support for the Teams of Our Lady Movement, and a source of life for the community and the Church through prayer. Together with the apostolate leaders in the nine regions of the Colombia Super Region, we will strive, hand in hand with the Lord, to strengthen this force of committed Intercessors and reach 3,200 members in the next four years.

We had a wonderful meeting, an experience of faith, simplicity, and humility, with the leaders of the Intercessors of the North Valley Region, reaffirming the importance of promoting this beautiful mission with all our enthusiasm. We also proposed to organize prayer days and vigils during the year 2025: in May, with Our Lady of Fatima, and in July, with Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquira, our patron saint in the Super Region.

The Lord has given us this call to love more and, thanks to the piety and perseverance in prayer of those who are part of the mission within the Colombia Super Region, we feel God's love and mercy.

We invite you to say 'yes' to 'intercession, to be beacons of hope and to respond with love to this mission.

Leonardo & Clarita Muñoz Acevedo,

Responsible Couple for the Intercessors for the Colombia Super Region

#### INTERCESSORS IN THE SOUTH HISPANO-AMERICA SUPER REGION

### The 24-Hour Intercessory Vigil with Henri Caffarel "To Jesus through Mary"

The vigil on December 8th was an unforgettable experience! It was a moment of profound spirituality and unity in prayer. We are grateful for the enthusiastic participation of all the Intercessors, whose dedication and commitment made this event a resounding success. The power of so many united prayers fills us with hope! Here are some testimonies:

"Mary, through your Holy and Immaculate Conception, we join in prayer with our intercessory brothers. We give you thanks." Diana & Marcelo LaRosa, Argentina HRI Region. "This vigil helps us deepen our long and intimate prayer as a couple. It has allowed us to fill our hearts with faith, love, and consolation." Illeana & Hector Gilbert – Intercessor Correspondent Couple for the South Ecuador Region.

"Each vigil is an opportunity to feel the closeness of Our Lord, to be close to Mary and her holy angels; even more so when we commemorate the Immaculate Conception, with Mary's YES that changed the history of our time; and as Teams of Our Lady, the movement's YES to the Founding Charter." Diana & Francisco Muñoz - Intercessor Correspondent Couple for the North Ecuador Region. "The Vigil was an act of love for our brothers and sisters, it filled our hearts with deep joy, a sign of the love of the Good Father. We give thanks to God for allowing us to participate in this beautiful vigil of love for Mary. Thank you, Father Caffarel!" Maybell & Marco Gomez - Intercessor Correspondent Couple for the Paraguay Region. "In communion and prayer with the Teams of Our Lady Movement. "Adaluz & Abraham Ocharan, Intercessor Correspondent Couple for the Peru Region.

May the intercession of our Heavenly Mother continue to accompany us on our journey of faith.

# Josefina & Miguel Alarcon, Liaison Couple, South Hispano-America Super Region.

#### **BECOMING AN INTERCESSOR, A SOURCE OF BLESSINGS.**

In 2018, we participated in the National Meeting of New Leaders at the Itaici-SP Monastery, and during this meeting, we explored several themes, including that of Intercession: "God seeks Intercessors."

We were immediately drawn to this proposal to become Intercessors: to make ourselves available and offer one hour a month of prayer for other brothers and sisters, who need our help because they are going through a difficult time in their lives. We thought we were giving up our time, but God always surprises us and shows us the opposite: with this intercessory attitude, we are the winners. We have been able to draw closer to the Lord, to enter into His intimacy. When we pray for others, we leave ourselves, our selfishness, our mediocrity. We experience God's love and, consequently, we increase our charity for our neighbour.

As we have grown in prayer since the day we decided to become Intercessors, many graces have been poured out upon us. Today, we are able to pray the Rosary every day as a family, which represents a spiritual victory in our lives. So many blessings have been received through the simple 'yes' we uttered in 2018! Our children, those who are married, are also doing well today and are part of Teams of Our Lady, and as for us, we have been called to other missions, mainly because we allowed ourselves to be used as instruments for God and for others, learning to love our brothers and sisters more.

We are happy and gratified to be part of this Intercessors' family, "Let yourself consider

#### it too!"

"All it takes is for are a few thousand, a few hundred thousand small houses of prayer in our world and the face of the planet will have changed." Father Caffarel used to say.

# Graciete & Lindomar – Team of Our Lady of Silence - Planaltina Sector/ Brasília, Intercessors in the Brazil Super Region.

### THE INTERCESSORS' PRAYER

God, Our Father, You sent your beloved Son to save the world. He is now seated at Your right hand where he ceaselessly intercedes for his human brothers. Born by the Spirit, we wish to unite ourselves to his prayer for the salvation of all. May priests and couples be faithful to their commitments in the service of the Church's communion, by glowing with the love that you have put in their hearts. May all your children throughout the world discover the happiness you give and may they live in respect, dignity, joy and peace. God, Our Father, through the intercession of Our Lady and of all the saints, let us Intercessors, fulfil our service out of love for you and out of love for men.

#### WATCH & PRAY

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or

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