



INTERCESSORS' QUARTERLY LETTER

The Intercessors May the Peace of Christ be with you!

WATCH AND PRAY

N° 186
APRIL 2024

CONTENTS

P. 1: Editorial / Fr. P.D. Marcovits' Spiritual Letter

P. 2: Intercession in the United States Super Region & in the Hispano-South America Super Region

P. 3: Intercession in the Canada Region in the Colombia Super Region

P. 4: Intercession in the Brazil Super Region / General Intention / The Pope's Monthly Intentions / News from the EIAI

As already indicated, the general theme of this year's Letters is "The Disciples of Emmaus, let us go with a burning heart!" And the specific theme in April is "Jesus explains and teaches the Word of God." How important it is to read and hear the Word of God. But the most important thing is to put it into practice!

The road to Emmaus is a sign of hope, consolation and love where the Lord is present for each of us and for all people who suffer.

We are grateful to the couples in our Americas Zone for their contributions to this edition of the Intercessors' Letter, for the testimony given and for their zealous intercession in each of the Regions and Super Regions of our immense geographical area!

We welcome Josefina and Miguel as the new Responsible Couple for intercessors in the Hispano-South America Super Region and thank the outgoing Responsible Couple Sandra and Paco for the dedication and affection with which they have devoted themselves in recent years to the work of intercession in this Super Region. With our prayers and our friendship!

Afra & Hubertus, Responsible Couple in the EIAI for the Americas Zone.

FATHER PAUL-DOMINIQUE MARCOVITS' SPIRITUAL LETTER

The Disciples of Emmaus: 2/ The Explanation of Scripture

We left the two disciples in deep sadness, overwhelmed by disappointment: their master died on the cross. So they leave Jerusalem. And now a stranger joins them. They do not know that it is Jesus *"because their eyes were prevented from recognising him"*: their eyes were too clouded with distress and their eyes of faith were not yet opened. But deep down, there were not just painful memories, there was certainly an expectation that had not yet been completely extinguished. The stranger, Jesus, will awaken it

For those of us who meditate on this extraordinary story, we always feel great emotion. The disciples ask all their questions and Jesus answers! So many questions inhabit our hearts! Jesus responds. He comments on the Scriptures, to them, to us, like a long liturgy of the Word: the crossing of the Red Sea, the passage from the land of slavery to the land of freedom, is already the passage from death to life, from darkness to light. It is Christ, the conqueror of death who draws us into his life!

And now Jesus, step by step, on this road to Emmaus, leads his disciples towards the truth of his life which saves all mankind.

During this conversation, what happened in the hearts of the disciples? An awakening! The voice of the Master touches their ears which were accustomed to listening to the Lord. Probably also, a sense of freedom awakens in them: this stranger's attention, respect and compassion opens them up. But there is more. They had followed Jesus, they had heard his words so characteristic of God's love, of God's life! They had believed in him. **So, the awakening takes place within them, it is the awakening of faith, it is the awakening of their hope; life deep within them awakens!** Everything they had received from the Lord and also their total gift to the master comes back to life! Their hearts will soon be *"burning within them"*!

Jesus awakens them, not only to what they have experienced, but above all he opens them up to the whole truth, *"Jesus opened their intelligence to the understanding of the Scriptures: Christ had to suffer in order to enter into his glory."* **Intercessors, we constantly ask that those for whom we pray awaken to this mystery of life.** For us, for them, the essential thing still remains to be discovered: it will be in the breaking of bread. In the meantime, let us rejoice in having a *"burning heart"*!

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

INTERCESSION IN THE UNITED STATES SUPER REGION

For us the ROAD TO EMMAUS has been a very special experience for many years. Being an intercessor enables God to move us from darkness to light in many ways each month. We have received two beautiful remarks from intercessors in our region that demonstrate this and we would like to share them with you.

Anna Laura and Rafael Gaiao wrote, *“For us, when we dedicate time to praying for the movement and not just for our needs, we feel the presence of the Lord even closer to us and our relationship with him is strengthened by his graces and his blessings. **Serving God through intercession is truly a gift that we, as a couple, receive more and more every day. We feel blessed and happy to be intercessors.**”*

Janie and Bob Mericsko explained, *“Many years ago, one of the couples on our Team divorced. We were all shocked; we didn't know they were having marital difficulties. It was just devastating for us as a Team. **Why didn't we see it? Could we have helped?** We know, thanks to many years of service within the Teams of Our Lady Movement, that even Team couples encounter difficulties in their marriages.”*

As members of the Intercessors' family, we now have the opportunity to pray for the Movement and its couples. So, several times during our prayer time, we include specific prayers for couples in troubled marriages. In responding to Father Caffarel's call, we never forget that there are couples we know or do not, who need our intercession in prayer so that they enter the Light of God.

Jack & Mary Pulick,

Responsible Couple for Intercessors in the United States Super Region.

INTERCESSION IN THE HISPANO-SOUTH AMERICA

We are Josefina and Miguel Alarcon and we have been part of Teams of Our Lady for 19 years. Recently, we were called to assume the service of Responsible Couple for Intercessors of the Hispano-South America Super Region, which covers the Argentina and Ecuador Regions, Paraguay, Peru, in addition to the Chile Sector and Teams in Uruguay.

There are 305 Intercessors in the Hispano-South America Super Region. We join up with them to pray together via WhatsApp, Rosaries on Zoom and emails.

Inspired by the reading of the Road to Emmaus, the Intercessors' mission is to be companions on the spiritual path, bearers of hope, mutually accompanying each other towards a deeper encounter with Jesus.

Just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, many may feel discouraged, confused, or even distant from the divine presence in their lives... But the Lord is there, with us!

In Luke's Gospel 24:13-35, we are told that Jesus walks with the disciples, but they do not recognise him. Yet, along the whole the way, they talk, accompany him, intercede for him. This mystery reflects how, in our own lives, we sometimes fail to perceive the loving presence of Christ around us. However, by explaining the Scriptures and breaking bread, Jesus reveals his identity, opening eyes and hearts.

Let us open our hearts so that, on the road to Turin, the Lord accompanies us, enlightens us and transforms us.

Selfless prayer for our brothers and sisters is an act of charity. Father Caffarel tells us, *“Can we frequent the Fire without being burned, approach Love without burning with love for God and for mankind? Prayer and charity are linked.”* (Cahiers sur l'Oraison 143).

Josefina & Miguel Alarcon,

Responsible Couple for the Intercessors in the Hispano-South America Super Region.

INTERCESSION IN THE CANADA REGION

Dear Intercessor Friends,

Since 2019, we have participated in the intercessory prayers of the Teams of Our Lady in the Canada Region. Every month, we learn of the many prayer requests to relieve suffering and accompany sick people, praying for their healing. We also pray for the eternal rest of people who have returned to the Lord. **Intercession makes us more sensitive to the difficulties experienced in various families, among priests and nuns and among single people.**

Through the Rosary and the reading of biblical texts, such as the Psalms and the Book of Job, we entrust to the Lord all the intentions of the month.

We also are lucky enough to do biblical catechesis regularly with young people and parents, who teach us that life is not all suffering; it is also full of hope! Recently we told the story of the disciples of Emmaus. One young girl felt that the

disciples were not only sad, but angry because of the great injustice that had happened to Jesus. Illness and death often seem unfair to us. But, Jesus is present and alive on the road to Emmaus. It reminds us that illness and death do not have the last word. The road to Emmaus is a sign of hope, consolation and love where the Lord is present for each of us.

We unite our prayers with the many intercessors around the world. We feel a communion of soul where Jesus is in our midst. He listens to us, comforts and heals us!

**Christiane & Philippe Savoie,
Responsible Couple for the Intercessors
in the Canada Region.**

INTERCESSION IN THE COLOMBIA SUPER REGION

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” (Mt 21:22).

Intercession in the Colombia Super Region is experienced day after day with great intensity and has increased thanks to the commitment of numerous intercessory couples from different regions and in their respective cities, who are responsible for encouraging and motivating interested people to pray for multiple needs. How do we experience this call to Intercession?

1. Coordinators of apostolates per region and animators of Teams in their respective cities.
2. Virtual groups via WhatsApp.
3. Prayer of the Holy Rosary in various modes: with a community, virtually and/or in person.
4. Monthly or bi-weekly Masses offered especially for Intercession.
5. Prayer vigils generally with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in constant adoration.
6. Speeches and lectures to provide and disseminate information on intercessory prayer.
7. Retreat organised by the intercessors semi-annually or annually.
8. Prayer of thanksgiving for the testimonies received.
9. Motivating Team members to be Intercessors and to attend the dedicated monthly Mass.
10. Prayer for the beatification of Father Caffarel.

Today, the apostolates in our Colombia Super Region are experienced with great sensitivity, intensity and commitment. The prayer intentions received are present in the lives of all Intercessors and in their prayer groups. We thank God for all those who encourage intercession in their cities. We are aware that as long as the Apostolate continues to be exercised with humility, commitment and always under the direction and company of our Intercessor, the Virgin Mary, everything will go well for the Glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen! **Ricardo & Amparo, Responsible Couple in the Colombia Super Region.**

THE INTERCESSORS

To contact us:

EIAIFatima2018@gmail.com

Find us:

<https://equip-es-notre-dame.com/en/who-are-the-intercessors/>

WATCH AND PRAY

GENERAL INTENTION

LORD,

WE ENTRUST YOU WITH THE TEAMS OF OUR LADY'S GATHERING IN TURIN.

MAY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE ALL THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THIS SESSION AND MAY THIS GATHERING BE A TIME OF REVITALISATION AND RENEWAL OF OUR FAITH IN YOU FOR EVERYONE. AMEN.

INTERCESSION IN THE BRAZIL SUPER REGION

Our names are Kelly and Andrei. We have been married for 24 years, have 3 children and have been in Teams of Our Lady for 15 years.

In August 2023, we received the mission of Responsible Couple of Intercessors of the Brazil Super Region, which gives us the rich opportunity to be involved in a profound experience with the Risen One, and for this reason we can say that being part of the Intercessors' family is a great grace. **We believe that we have been called to travel this path like the disciples of Emmaus to follow the Risen One and with Him to be the bearers of faith, hope and encouragement for all those who are part of the Intercessors' family and entrust their prayer requests to the Intercessors.**

We understand that our mission is not only about conveying prayer requests and seeking new support. **It is in fact about praying, asking for Our Lady's intercession, bowing before the Risen One, dialoguing, expressing each prayer request and ensuring the unity and strengthening of the Intercessors' family.**

In practice, all prayer requests are sent via the Teams' website or via the application and reach us by email. Upon receipt of the request, we welcome it with our heart, present it at the daily Holy Mass we attend and send it on to the Intercessors via email. Other actions include publicity and motivating new members via social networks and meetings; distribution of the Quarterly Letter; praying the Rosary of mercy (virtually) every last Monday of the month and at the end, there is a moment of testimonies; Holy Mass of the Intercessors is on the 18th of each month in response to prayer requests and for the Cause of Canonisation of Father Henri Caffarel.

Kelly & Andrei, Responsible Couple for the Intercessors in Brazil.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

APRIL: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

MAY: We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

JUNE: We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

* NEWS FROM THE EIAI *

"LET US GO WITH A BURNING HEART"

THIS TURIN GATHERING WILL BE A TIME OF GRACE! LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS, JUST LIKE THE DISCIPLES OF EMMAUS, TO EXPERIENCE THIS ENCOUNTER AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE POWER OF INTERCESSION.

LET US PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF TEAMS OF OUR LADY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.