

HUMBLE PRAYER

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Prayer is the hallmark of the intercessor, a *powerful weapon*, as our chaplain indicates, *source of infinite blessings for us*. Made from trusting faith in the Father, it is a great act of Christian love; it is a completely free act, a request made to Jesus, the great intercessor, for the benefit of someone who we often do not even know, but to whom we nevertheless dedicate our time and our prayer.

Sometimes, however, it may seem that our prayer is lost, that God is not listening to us. Complete darkness surrounds us. The long-awaited event does not occur. So, perhaps our faith is not sufficient? Are we not perseverant enough? Without a doubt, trust and perseverance are indispensable values for an intercessor. But what if, in reality, we are trying to dictate God's agenda? *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*" (Isaiah 55:8)

Sometimes the Lord places moments, people or situations on our path and we cannot explain why. They do not correspond to our hopes, to what we thought was good for us. Our prayer, in addition to being trusting and persistent, must be offered with humility, knowing that the Father, in His infinite love for His children, will give us what is best for us. Even if we do not understand it...

Albert Mascaró and Anna M Padrós
Eurafrica Zone of Intercessors



SPIRITUAL NOTE OF FATHER GERVAIS RAOUL N'SOUGAN THE INTERCESSORS WAPONS: CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER



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Some suggestions for the Intercessor:

- FAITH AND TRUST, THE BASIS OF PRAYER

The Intercessor ought to have a faithful attitude in order to better offer up requests to God. Putting this faith into action involves various aspects.

Faith in God's presence:

When we engage in intercessory prayer, alone before God, we must believe with all our hearts that God is present, that He is watching over us and loves us.

Faith in the fruitfulness of the life of contemplative prayer:

If the Lord calls the Intercessor to the life of contemplative prayer, it is because it is the source of infinite blessings for us. The Intercessor who commits to a life of contemplative prayer must be absolutely sure that, as long as they persevere, they will receive all this and much more. Even if we sometimes get the impression that it is the opposite, that the life of prayer is fruitless, that we get the impression that we are not being heard. We must not become discouraged, but remain convinced that God will keep his promise. (Lk 11:9-10)

Thus, the intercessor who commits himself to contemplative prayer as their spiritual life must aim firstly for fidelity. That means that intercessory prayer be perseverant and faithful. Contemplative prayer experienced properly by the Intercessor will then enable them to commit to fasting once a month.

Fr. Gervais Raoul N'Sougan
Spiritual Counsellor
to the EIAI



Testimony from Italy

Hello, our names are Luisa and Fabrizio Ricciardi, from Team Savigliano 6 in the North-West of Italy. We have three children, aged 9, 6 and 3 years old. We would like to tell you the story of a miracle, that was accompanied by the prayers of and comfort from our Intercessors' group.

On August, 15, 2024, Filippo, who was then two and a half years old, had a domestic accident while we were holidaying in the mountains, putting his life in danger and causing very serious burning to his hand. The evening of the accident, we sent a message to our Team telling them what had happened and asking for their help by praying for us. The immediate solidarity was wonderful and our friend, Daniela, who had just joined our group of Intercessors, organized a prayer vigil that night. We were overwhelmed: I could only sleep a bit that night, thinking that someone was watching over us, especially during the first few hours of the accident, when Filippo's life was in danger. A few hours later, the prayers had extended to the whole Eurafrica Zone: what graces we felt in our hearts!

Fortunately, the danger of death was averted, but unfortunately, the burn on the hand progressed slowly, to such an extent that Filippo underwent four operations; for each one of these, we asked that Filippo be entrusted to God, so that the doctors' hand be guided by a greater one and that the best be done for him.

With hindsight, we can truly realise how important our Team of Our Lady and our Intercessors' group were important in helping us stay afloat at a moment when we suddenly found ourselves in the eye of the storm.

We met personally with the couple responsible for the Intercessors: Cristiano and Francesca. It was a very emotional moment, as was when they told us that prayers had come in from Eurafrica, because at that moment, it had been decided that the most recent intentions would be shared with the international Intercessors.

Filippo is well now. He will have to undergo other operations, because unfortunately, his index finger is damaged and he has numerous scars, but we are absolutely sure that we will not be alone in this ordeal. Thank you!



Testimony from Benin

Our names are Evelyne and Sosthème Amou and we have been married 20 years. We are the Responsible Couple for the Intercessors in the Benin Region, belonging to Sector 8 and Teams of Our Lady Contonou 18.

Two years ago, we were called to this post of responsibility. Daring to intercede means following Christ, through Mary and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Connected to Christ, we allow ourselves to be guided by Him. With the idea of covering all the Benin region, and on the advice of our FRR (Benita & Pedro Sekloka), we restructured in order to associate all Teams with intercession, with an Intercessor couple per Team, to regroup according to Sector and a couple per Sector to constitute a regional core. We have 251 Intercessor couples. Monthly and on a rotating basis, a pair of Sectors is responsible for organising and monitoring the 24 hours of prayer, which concludes with a Mass of adoration and intercession, in which all the Intercessors in the Region participate. Several intentions are given and testimonials are shared.

For example, we have a Team member who asked for the Intercessors' support for his wife to deliver their baby safely. As soon as the baby Mahouna was born, he developed severe neonatal asphyxia. He was no longer responsive despite resuscitation. After this resuscitation period, the pediatrician asked for the parents to be summoned to announce their child's death. Against all odds and thanks to the active and healing hand of Christ, Mahouna suddenly began to show signs of life again. He was taken back into care and contrary to all prognoses, Mahouna miraculously survived without after-effects. We bear this testimony and we believe that prayer saves, if you believe in it.



Mahouna was baptized by the entire medical team as the 'resurrected one.'

We give thanks to God for the wonders he continues to perform in our life as a couple and for all the couples in the Benin Region..

Evelyne and Sosthène AMOU, Heads of the Intercessors of Benin



*In moments of discouragement, cowardice or fatigue, when the sources of prayer are dry, it is always possible to ask Christ to address a prayer to the Father for us, to pray in our name.
In the presence of God. One Hundred Letters on Prayer, H Caffarel*

Testimony from Spain: The Intercessory Prayer

There is a large group of people who claim that intercessory prayer makes no sense, because God already knows all our concerns without us needing to express them to Him. Others believe that God cannot care for each and every one of the billions of individuals who populate the Earth.

It is impossible to try to know God in order to know what He is trying to do.

That is beyond our capacity, and if we could, He would no longer be God.

We are God's creatures. He created each of us with our own characteristics and talents, with abilities and the freedom to use them as each sees fit.

What is certain is that when Jesus was questioned about how to pray, He taught the Lord's Prayer, in which, after acknowledging Him as Father, we recite our requests. In the Garden of Olives, He also prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42-46). And on the cross, He also addressed God, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). And also, being on the cross, he turned to God: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23:34).



Rereading the Gospels, we easily find many moments where Jesus addresses the Father in a prayer of intercession or petition. The important thing is that we know how to 'ask' and that we are convinced that God always listens to us, that He loves us above everything else and that He gives us what is best for us, even if we often do not know how to appreciate it.

The Father does not spare Jesus the torture of the Passion and death on a cross, despite all His love for Him, but Jesus suffered it all for the good of all humanity.

The prayer of intercession contains an important aspect that we sometimes do not perceive when we practice it, because we are in contact with the Lord, we realise that He knows us perfectly, we hide nothing because that makes no sense. We are there before Him, arms drooping, defenseless, open-hearted, asking the Lord for things that are beyond our power to resolve: the end to a war, a dignified solution to immigration, the eradication of poverty, etc. It is at these moments that our ears are open to the Lord, who can inspire us with actions that we can carry out and make life easier for those around us. This is His way of resolving difficulties, by inviting us to be His hands and feet.

Finally, congratulations on being part of the Intercessors and for continuing this work. Trust in the immense love God has for His children.

Maria-Teresa Fernández & José Antonio Pérez de Camino

Intercessors' Coordination Couple, Spain Super-Region (2000-2009)



INTERCESSION ACCORDING TO FATHER CAFFAREL

On September 25, 2010, in the church of Sainte-Rosalie, Paris, Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits recalled Father Henri Caffarel's inspiration that, in 1960, launched an urgent call to prayer within the Teams of Our Lady Movement.

Father Caffarel sensed that the spiritual vitality of couples and of the Movement itself needed a "supplement of prayer." And this is how the Intercessors were born: couples and individuals who, discreetly and faithfully, offered in the beginning a regular hour of contemplative prayer for others, thus constituting a "hidden circle" of grace.

For Father Caffarel, intercession consists of spiritually supporting spouses and priests, accompanying each stage of their lives—marriage, widowhood, waiting, and eternity—and extending beyond, to the Church and the entire world. The mission of the intercessors is to open hearts to the universal dimension of God's love. As Father Marcovits emphasised, intercession for Father Caffarel has a Trinitarian structure: Christ, the sole mediator, takes charge of our supplications and presents them to the Father, while the Holy Spirit imprints on our hearts the dynamism of divine love. Praying in the "name of Jesus" means entering into His desire for unity and the salvation for all people.

The object of the petition knows no bounds: one can ask for anything, from the simplest to the most transcendent, because God is interested in everything that concerns His children. The important thing is not the magnitude of the request, but the love with which it is presented. For intercessors, the essential supplication is that married couples and priests be faithful and that, through them, the world may know the happiness that God gives.

Intercession is always lived in communion with the saints. The intercessor is never alone: they pray in the midst of the Church of heaven and on earth. Their prayer is combined with fasting and daily offerings as a concrete expression of charity.

In 2025, sixty-five years after Father Caffarel's call, as Father Marcovits highlighted in his 2010 conference, the Teams of Our Lady Movement would not be what they are without this invisible source of prayer from the intercessors, whose fidelity sustains and enriches the life of the Church..

Amaya Aldave and Santiago Villanueva, Coordinators of the Equipo Caffarel,* Spain Super Region

**The CAFFAREL TEAM was born in 2021 with the purpose of bringing the life and work of Father Caffarel closer to the members of the SR teams of Spain, and responds to the request that the Association of Friends of Father Caffarel made to ALL the Superregions, in relation to the Cause of his Beatification, "What should we do in this process (SR-RR)?". More information: equiposens.org*

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

OCTOBER: For collaboration between different religious traditions.

NOVEMBER: For the prevention of suicide.

DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of conflict.

EIAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

We pray for the fruits of the next meeting of the ERI to be held from November 17 to 22, 2025 Let us prepare the 24 hours of Prayer on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Contacts: EIAIFatima2018@gmail.com

On the Web : <https://equipos-notre-dame.com/en/who-are-the-intercessors/>