

# Intercessors' Quarterly Letter

## IN THE LIENESS OF CHRIST, LET OUR HEART BURN FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

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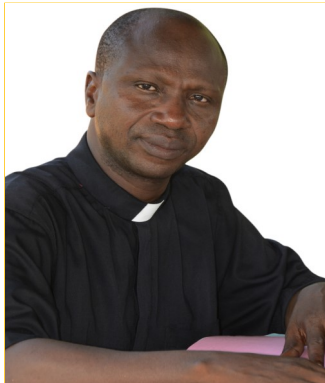
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On the road to Emmaus, the disciples' hearts burned when Jesus spoke to them and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread, do our hearts burn within us for anything? are we on fire with desire? This desire is the desirous love that Jesus Christ has for us, our marriages, our children, our Teams, as well as for the people and situations around us, in our country in our world. This desirous love of Jesus Christ can be manifest in our own hearts, if we ask him, this love is what can bring about change both to us and those around us.

The fragility of painful family situations, 'horrible' neighbours, aggressive drivers, difficult office workers and mental health situations face us every day. On a wider scope there is war, migrants and homelessness in our back yards. But do we burn with desire to help and change these fragile situations? What do we do? we pray, fast and give alms, those basic tenants, but is that enough? If we can do more, we are called to do more, we are called to come out of our comfort zones. It is our duty to reach out to those who are most fragile, whether in our family or beyond. In our daily lives we are called to see the fragility that is before us and bring it to the great intercessor who is Christ; isn't that our mission?

**Christine and Dwight Gonsalves,**  
**Coordinators of Transoceanic region**

## FATHER GERVAIS-RAOUL N'SOUGAN SPIRITUAL LETTER



### THE INTERCESOR'S WEAPONS

Father Henri Caffarel's prophetic intuition in 1959, calling for "watchmen," or couples to pray at night for the movement and the world, and who, since 1977, are now referred to as

"intercessors," continues its journey within the Movement. This is truly a blessing for us, Team members. Intercessors serve the vitality of Teams: they are like their hidden centre, so that God's grace may spread into the lives of couples and, more broadly, into the Church and the world.

Intercession is so powerful that it can be described as a remote-controlled intercontinental ballistic missile. Prayer has a long reach. It can reach all the way to heaven.

Here is a list of some of these "weapons": **Contemplative prayer, prayer, fasting, and offering up** are the "weapons" used by Intercessors, in a spiritual context, referring to the spiritual means they use to influence the situation in favour of those for whom they pray. Jesus Christ is our great intercessor, with his Spirit living in us and interceding for us (Rom 8:26). There are numerous "weapons," but for now we will only mention those that apply to us. They are not physical, but rather spiritual tools based on the name of Jesus: faith, compassion, contemplative prayer, prayer, fasting, daily offering up, perseverance, etc.

Dear intercessor friends, let us remain as watchmen in the breach and arm ourselves with spiritual weapons for an intercession that touches God's heart.

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

## “Fragility is our True Richness”

With Spiritual Accompaniment, Pope Francis tells us, “it is important to make ourselves known, without fear of sharing the most fragile aspects, where we find ourselves to be more sensitive, weak, or afraid of being judged.” (...) Because *fragility* is, in reality, our true richness: we are rich in fragility, all of us, the true richness which we must learn to respect and welcome, because when it is offered to God, it makes us capable of tenderness, mercy, and love. (...) Fragility, I dare say, makes us human.(...) And yet it is our most valuable treasure: indeed God, to make us like him, wished to share our own fragility to the utmost. Look at the crucifix: God who descended into fragility.”



**Pope Francis**

- **Confidence in the Power of Prayer**

St John of the Cross encourages us to pray with confidence, knowing that God hears and answers our prayers, and that He can act and intervene even beyond our requests.

- **Fraternal Charity**

Intercession is also expressed in our love of our neighbours, the desire to see others progress in God’s love and in faith.

**Contemplation**

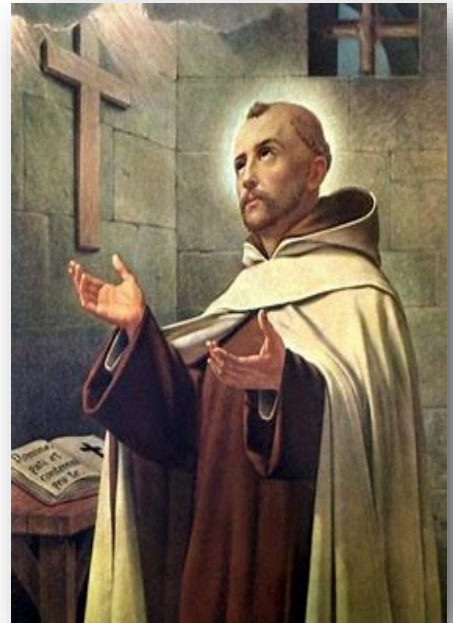
It is important to allow ourselves to be transformed by Christ’s presence within us, by practicing silent contemplative prayer, where we allow ourselves to be loved by God.

In summary, intercession according to Saint John of the Cross is a spiritual practice that involves dispossession, availability to God, trust in prayer, fraternal charity, and an openness to contemplation. It is a means of participating in God's saving work in the world and in the lives of others.

## The Implications of Intercession according to St John of the Cross

According to St John of the Cross, intercession, meaning the fact of praying for others, is a practice that stems from a love of one’s neighbour and from fraternal charity, intimately linked to the love of God.

He emphasizes that this practice is part of the communion of saints and knows no boundaries, extending even to enemies. For him, the love of God and the love of one's neighbor



are one and the same. In practice, intercession according to Saint John of the Cross involves:

- **A Stripping Away**

It is necessary to get rid of everything, including the spiritual, to be entirely available to God's will and to what He wants for us.

- **An Openness to God's Action**

It is about allowing ourselves to be transformed by God, in silence and abandonment, so that His will may be fulfilled in us and through us.

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## WATCH AND PRAY

***“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in doing it. That makes all the difference.”***

**Saint Teresa of Calcutta,**

“Do not be dismayed,” Pope Francis tells us, “for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life.” (Gaudete et Exultate, 15). Holiness is the most beautiful face of the Church.

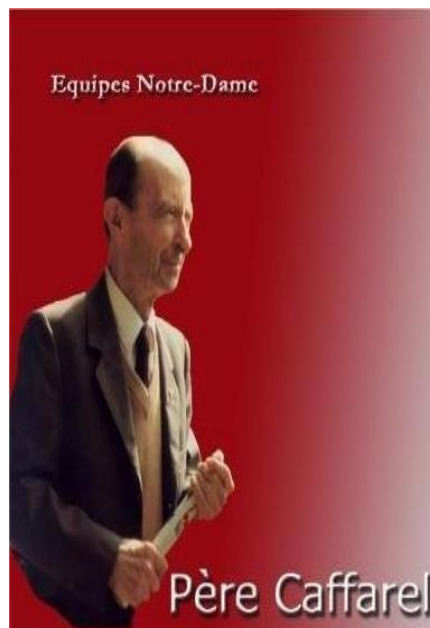
## The Basics of Prayers of Intercession

Intercession is a request made for others. “Prayer of intercession consists in asking on behalf of another. It knows no boundaries and extends to one's enemies.” (CCC 2647)

“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,”** (Phil 2:4) even to the point of praying for those who do him harm.” (cf. Stephen praying for his executioners, Acts 7:60; similarly Jesus: Lk 23:28; Lk 23:34) (cf. CCC 2635)

### God likes prayers that intersect

It is a place where fraternal charity is expressed. It makes us leave a form of individualism, selfishness. The number of intercessors is multiplied when **people pray for each other**. As St Ambrose says, “If you pray only for yourself, you pray for yourself alone. If each one prays for himself, **he received less from God's goodness than the one who prays on behalf of others**. But as it is, because each prays for all, all are in fact praying for each one. To conclude, if you pray only for yourself, you will be praying, as we said, for yourself alone. But if you pray for all, all will pray for you, for you are included in all.” (St Ambrose, From Cain and Abel, I, 39)



***“How often does the love of spouses and the affection between parents decline, precisely because we neglect to nurture and deepen them. Our human loves require encounters, exchanges, and moments of heart-to-heart connection. It's vital. Likewise, the love of God withers away in the soul of the Christian, who doesn't set aside daily moments of encounter with his Lord, moments of exchange, of intimacy, that is, of prayer. It's no less vital. And whoever retorts to me, “But where do you expect me to find the time to pray?” leaves me wondering... The whole question is whether it's vital to eat, the whole question is whether it's vital to pray.”***

*Father Henry Caffarel*

## Let us Pray

**“Stay with me Lord, because I am weak, and I need Your strength, so that I may not fall so often.  
Stay with me Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.  
Stay with me Lord, for You are my light, and without you, I am in the darkness.”**

*St Jean de la croix*



## General Intention

We pray for those who fear for their safety and their lives. May the Lord Jesus Christ be present alongside them through the courageous help of others, and may we be part of this help.

Father Caffarel, Pray for us.



## TESTIMONIALS



We are Jack and Mary Pulick and have been in Teams of Our Lady for almost 55 years. We began our time in Teams in New York and are now members of Palm Coast 1 in Northeast Florida. It is a privilege to be an intercessor and to spend special time each month praying that Teams of Our Lady will continue to be an authentic path for Sacramental Marriage where couples can truly keep God in the center of their relationship. We pray that couples will choose to love God and each other first each day and from that love, be able to love their family and all they meet. We also include all marriages in our monthly prayer. This precious time when we pray as intercessors continues to be a gift for our marriage because it reminds us that, as Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote many years ago, it takes three to get married! We just experienced a Teams Retreat with that title and it strengthened our relationship and our resolve to be faithful intercessors. We are grateful for this opportunity and pray that all couples in Teams will decide to say "YES" to becoming an intercessor.

**Jack & Mary Pulick**

In one of the Teams of Our Lady there was a couple who were undergoing much stress in their marriage, eventually the husband left the marriage and was in a relationship with another woman. Quietly and behind the scenes, intercessory prayer was happening for their marriage. He left the Teams and for two years they were separated, he remarried but eventually came back home to his wife and now they are reunited and back in Teams. Praise and thank you Jesus!



**Maria & Andrew Kagwale**  
**Couple in charge of Intercession, Malazar region**

## News from the ELAI

We pray for the International Leading Team (ERI) who met mid-July in Lyon, France, the town where Father Henri Caffarel was born

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