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#### CONTENTS

P. 1 : Editorial / Father Marcovits' Spiritual Letter

P. 2 : Encyclical letter « fratelli tutti »

P. 3 : 60 years of Intercessors

P. 4 : "We have one live to give / General Intention

Dear Intercessors, do we still believe that God is in the miracle working business? Every moment of our lives we are called to be intercessors and as 'active' ones as possible. This 'action' can be as simple as smiling at a stranger, or feeding someone, or giving a donation. This is how we put our action of good works to prayer. Or, it can be much more. Recently a fellow teams member was having a miscarriage in pain and needed her husband with her in hospital, but she had 3 small children and no nearby family. He was able to leave them safely with another Teams intercessory family at night, and visit his wife. On his return, around 10:30pm, he was able to sleep for 1 hour while his children were kept occupied, then leave. Refreshed for his long journey home. Thank God he asked for help ! becoming vulnerable and sharing their wounds with the other couple and the other received them, understood and reached out in loving action. This indeed is the miracle of INTERCESSION. Where we can 'see' others needs and put them before ours. This is what we are called to do as intercessors. Can we do this?

**Dwight and Christine Gonsalves EIAI -Responsible couple for the Eurasia zone.**

#### FATHER PAUL-DOMINIQUE MARCOVITS' SPIRITUAL LETTER



To me, the best example of compassion seems to be that of the Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross. She has compassion, that is to say, above all she suffers

with her mother's heart to see the torture and death of her son on the cross. "Oh, all you who pass by the way, look, and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow," this chant forms part of the Good Friday liturgy. The Virgin Mary is Our Lady of Sorrows.

We ourselves suffer when another person encounters misfortune and it is in proportion to our love for them. We know this very well. **At the heart of Intercession is this attachment to the other person.** Of course, we do not possess this all-encompassing kind of love for everyone. But we are talking about this profound orientation of the heart that, in faith, wants the good of the other person, of other people. This orientation can be called true charity like that of the Good Samaritan, who does not know the person he helps... But the person who is left half-dead can only be for him a brother in humanity and so he helps him. The Intercessor is a good Samaritan in prayer, a brother to others.

But Mary does more. She is Our Lady of Compassion. Through faith, she enters into the offering of her Son for the salvation of the world. She offers to God the Father, her son who is dying, so that he may be the

source of life for everyone. We can also offer the lives of others to God. So that the pains, the difficulties they go through, the nights which overwhelm them do not become for them occasions of despair, of feeling that they are worthless, of expecting nothing more from life, from people... but that their trials become opportunities to open their hearts to the true depths of who they are, and to the understanding of others. It is through this offering that the Lord makes us pass with him from death to life.

This is why, at the foot of the cross, the Virgin Mary reaches the height of compassion. She believes her son will live. She believes in him, who is the resurrection and the life. She believes before seeing. She believes in what no one has seen yet. She is "the one who believed." Life is a question of entering into eternal life right now and no matter what happens. What more can Intercessors hope for, when they pray for others ? This way of looking with faith makes everything be seen in the light of hope, admiration and peace. Talking about the Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross in these Christmas times may seem strange. But it isn't. Not so far from the manger, Herod is going to cast his murderous shadow... The cross is already present. And the cross is inherent in the resurrection! **The whole of this great mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God and his resurrection is at the heart of our intercession.**

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

## “... AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF”

**“Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”**

« Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’

Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ »

**Lk 10:25-37.**

## HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

**In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan**



“ The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan.

Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man

on the roadside.

The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time, it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is. ”

« ENCYCLICAL LETTER « FRATELLI TUTTI »  
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS,  
ON 3 OCTOBER 2020 - §67.

## 60 YEARS OF INTERCESSORS

How the Countries in Eurasia zone celebrated the Birthday Mass and Father Caffarel's 60 year journey with intercession in Teams.

What joy it was to hear of the different celebrations from so many continents, proclaiming Teams birthday celebration and the reigniting and rejuvenation of intercessory prayer, so dear to Father Caffarel's heart!!

Great Britain's Mass was virtual and was well attended. Tony and Pat Banks are doing a wonderful job, even being personally faithful for the 12 hour vigil! May God Bless them abundantly.

Whereas in Ireland, Mass was both physical and virtual. They were blessed to have the Apostolic Nuncio Jude Okolo celebrating!! Thank God we were able to tune in and partake of the beautiful choir and sermon. India, Australia, South Africa,

Malazar (Malawi and Zambia) and Ghana all celebrated this wonderful memorial in their special and different ways.

In Trinidad and Tobago We had Mass celebrated at Our Lady of Exile church on top of scenic Mount. St. Benedict. We had a basket with prayer intentions from all the teams at the foot of the altar. These were taken by the Responsible couple to their home and to be included in the hourly prayer. Blessed candles were handed out to encourage those doing the vigil. What a joyous time was had by all praying through the night.

**FATHER CAFFAREL, PRAY FOR US.  
MARY QUEEN OF TEAMS, PRAY  
FOR US.**



This feast of Father Caffarel's call to mark our 60 years of intercession is a logical continuation of our openness to the world as Intercessors. It was organized in Fatima in July 2018, through a more structured relationship between us and the Teams of Our Lady

The feast of the Immaculate Conception, so dear to Father Caffarel's heart, was the occasion on December 8, 2020 to unite in the same communion of prayer. That evening, all over the world, the members of Teams of Our Lady in connection with us participated together in masses, which they sometimes animated. Then, on the initiative of the Intercessors, a vigil at home was proposed at every one.

Many messages, as above, attest to the enthusiasm of those who participated in these events. Everyone felt carried in the night prayer. We offered our general intentions, shared among all, but also those personal and local, collected in the teams. We could thank God for this gift, in the person

of Father Henri Caffarel.

The letters during this year 2021 will be an opportunity to share these testimonies of the intercessors, of what they experienced during this Mass and the Vigil.

*A new logo of the Intercessors for the  
60 years of our commitment to be  
"all brothers" in Christ, in the same  
communion of prayer.*



**Les Intercesseurs**  
VEILLEZ ET PRIEZ

**Both hands open** : mark our fraternity by bringing our neighbour in prayer, by opening our heart.

**The cross of Christ** : refocuses us on the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**The motto "Watch and Pray"** : - Mt 26:41 - is the strong demand of Christ on the evening of Gethsemani. Prayer at the heart of our Faith.

*General Intention:*

*Teach us dear Lord how to become **vulnerable** with each other. Not hiding and pretending to be someone we are not, but courageous enough to show our wounds.*

*Jesus did this for us, hanging **NAKED** and **BRUISED** on a cross.*

*Can we do this with our spouse? Our children? Our Priest? Our fellow workers? a stranger? A foreigner? May God Bless your endeavour.*

*(suggested reading: The Wounded Healer by Henri J.M. Nouwen and The Power of vulnerability by Brene' Brown)*

*« Those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life. » Pope Francis.*

Greetings to each and everyone of our intercessors, and Teams brothers and sisters, from our sunny twin Islands of Trinidad and Tobago. We are a multicultural nation, of about 1.4 million people, nestled in the Caribbean.

We are Dwight and Christine Gonsalves. We have had the honour of being asked to serve as coordinators of Intercessory prayer in the Eurasia Zone, and have been in Teams for over 29 years. We hope that we can always give our ‘yes ‘ to our Church, in faith, relying on the Holy Spirit and the support of the Teams.

We have 9 beautiful children who take turns at sending us nuts/bonkers, and whom we love dearly ! They constantly challenge us to grow in compassion and love.

All of us at times feel too tired, too sick, too busy or too old to serve, yet those of us who are challenged in some way actually make the best intercessors. “THE GREAT ILLUSION of leadership is to think that a person can be led out of the desert by someone who has never been there.” (The wounded Healer) Henri Nouwen.

We our selves, every intercessor, needs to dig deeper into the endeavours so as to be ready and fortified as we are being called to line up with God, to save his people, to give our YES in faith like the bearers in the parable who removed part of the roof and let the stretcher down. According to Father John Theodore, ‘Many depend on the intercessor, often unknowingly , to obtain GRACE through their prayers in order to be saved.’ God knows we all feel battered and bruised at times and that we often fall short, but He summons us all the same, having the utmost confidence in us, Wounded Healers that we are.

Intercessory prayer frees us from looking in on ourselves, so as not to miss those who are right in front our eyes but we do not see.

We have one life to **give** and He challenges us to live that life to the fullest , to the very end.

*Dwight and Christine Gonsalves.*

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS :**

**JANUARY** Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity

*May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*

We also pray for those that are fearful for their safety and their lives, may the Lord Jesus Christ be present to them through the courageous helping hands of others, and may we be one of those helpers.

**FEBRUARY** Universal intention - Violence against women

*We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.*

**MARCH** Intention for evangelization - Sacrament of reconciliation

*Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.*

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