



THE INTERCESSORS' QUARTERLY LETTER

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A NEW LETTER, A NEW IMPETUS!

Dear Intercessors,

We are happy to introduce you to the new "Intercessors' Letter"! Written every three months by one of the couples on the International Intercessors Animation Team (EIAI), this letter will constitute a link between all the intercessors on the five continents. The Intercessors answered Father Caffarel's call in 1960! Their mission, through their commitment, is to pray most particularly for Christian marriage, the central theme of this letter.

We hope with all our heart that this quarterly newsletter will help you and support you in your commitment as an Intercessor. May all Intercessors in the world feel united in Christ through this living prayer chain! May each one of us individually and together, unite ourselves with Christ's prayer for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. May this prayer of intercession support our inner life and help it to grow.

**Aude & Olivier de la Motte, EIAI –
Responsible Couple for the Central-Europe Zone.**

THE SPIRITUAL LETTER OF FATHER PAUL-DOMINIQUE MARCOVITS, O.P.



Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, May 2014. The sun was shining. I was passing by there. And suddenly I see coming towards me, a couple of very dear friends whom I have known forever. I recently

celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary. They hold each other's hands and come towards me joyfully, just like in the early days of their love. I see and say to myself with wonder, "Pass by..." Out of respect, I dare not approach them.

That's what Christian marriage is. God comes to inhabit the heart of one and the other so that their human love can blossom and show to all the wonder of the love of God. Father Henri Caffarel, the apostle of marriage, writes, "*Christian love is authentically human; it is at the same time supernatural: Charity - that love which descends from the heart of God - works it from the inside like a powerful sap and makes it bear fruits of holiness.*" (Henri Caffarel, *The Golden Ring*, n° 2-3-4, May 1945, Paris, Editions of the New Fire, p.9).

The grace of the sacrament of marriage is powerful and does not evaporate so quickly! It works

on human love to purify it gradually. For human love needs, in order to live, to be free from many things that clutter it because we are all poor!

Turning in on oneself, lack of confidence, blockage in front of what we do not understand ... We know all this and they are difficulties we all have. Love seeks its path and the grace of God helps it. Or, to put it in a better way: the love of God purifies our human love and leads it to its true goal, which is the holiness of love.

Fidelity, passing through the years, transfigures human love. The Lord Jesus who accompanies couples, who lives with them, leads them into his own transfiguration. How not to admire those faces that the fidelity of love has made blossom and bloom? Storms or shocks could shake their love. But the "rock" of their love has always been there. Father Caffarel writes again,

"This vibrant fervour [of love] does not always live up to its expectations; it can experience hours of decline without, for all that, love being undermined. For there is a fervour of the will in which love essentially consists: a very pure melody which does not necessarily require the accompaniment of sensible fervour, although the latter often gives it support and a useful means of expression." (Id.)

In our prayer of intercession, we pray that couples live their love in holiness.

May we each be a path of holiness for our husband, our wife, just as Teams of Our Lady invite us to be. Just as Father Caffarel suggests.

The Church asks that Christians pray with all their heart so that marriage remains a source of light and hope for the world; that families are places of forgiveness and mercy, of gentleness and patience; couples that radiate, welcome, and soothe suffering...

This is God's purpose. Married Christian couples bear witness with their love to God's love. Their fecundity comes from there. The fecundity of giving the Church and humanity children who will grow humanly and spiritually for the service of others. A further fecundity, of spreading God's love that inhabits their love, spreading their love inhabited by God's love... And thereby doing good to others.

"God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) This is the greatness of the sacrament of marriage. How can we not give thanks to God? Beyond all trials, beyond all happiness, he leads us all to holiness, to the joy of his love.

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

POPE FRANCIS' HOMELY: MARRIAGE, A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2014.

The love of Christ, which has blessed and sanctified the union of husband and wife, is able to sustain their love and to renew it when, humanly speaking, it becomes lost, wounded or worn out.

The love of Christ can restore to spouses the joy of journeying together. This is what marriage is all about: man and woman walking together, wherein the husband helps his wife to become ever more a woman, and wherein the woman has the task of helping her husband to become ever more a man.

This is the task that you both share. "I love you, and for this love I help you to become ever more a woman"; "I love you, and for this love I help you to become ever more a man". Here we see the reciprocity of differences.

The path is not always a smooth one, free of disagreements, otherwise it would not be human. It is a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times turbulent, but such is life! Within this theology which the word of God offers us concerning the people on a journey, spouses on a journey, I would like to give you some advice.

It is normal for husband and wife to argue: it's normal. It always happens.

But my advice is this: never let the day end without having first made peace. Never! A small gesture is sufficient. Thus the journey may continue.

Marriage is a symbol of life, real life: it is not "fiction"! It is the Sacrament of the love of Christ and the Church, a love which finds its proof and guarantee in the Cross.

My desire for you is that you have a good journey, a fruitful one, growing in love. I wish you happiness. There will be crosses!

But the Lord is always there to help us move forward.

May the Lord bless you!



MY DESIRE FOR YOU IS THAT YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY, A FRUITFUL ONE, GROWING IN LOVE.

FATHER CAFFAREL ON THE MYSTERY OF LOVE.

THE SOURCE OF
CHRISTIAN LOVE
IS NOT IN MAN'S
HEART. IT IS IN
GOD. TO
SPOUSES WHO
WISH TO LOVE,
WHO WISH TO
LEARN HOW TO
LOVE MORE AND
MORE, THERE IS
ONLY ONE PIECE
OF GOOD ADVICE:
SEEK GOD, LOVE
GOD, BE UNITED
WITH GOD, LET
HIM HAVE
EVERYTHING.

The importance and dignity of love clearly appear when we consider its place in creation. It is the last of the divine works, after which God rested. And if we admit that the six “days” of creation represent immense periods, the novelty and the price of love acquire in our eyes an even greater value. (...)

Finally man was created, and his young splendour was more brilliant than the light of the rising sun. Everything in this immense creation is for him, and he is for God. Each creature is a degree that must allow him to rise to the Creator. However, this is not the end of the divine work! God says, "It is not good for man to be alone," and to all his gifts, he adds the best one: on the evening of the last day, in the midst of respectful and caring nature, God created the woman and united her to man. And their love dazzling with purity sounds a new song, unknown to the earth. (...)

However, the union of man and woman is not the ultimate goal of the divine work. In instituting marriage, God is thinking of the marriage of Christ and the Church. (...)

The source of Christian love is not in man's heart. It is in God. To spouses who wish to love, who wish to learn how to love more and more, there is only one piece of good advice: seek God, love God, be united with God, let Him have everything.

The Golden Ring (L'anneau d'Or), Special Issue,
July 1945, *The Mystery of Love*

POPE FRANCIS TO TEAMS OF OUR LADY

ALL THIS IS TO BE WITNESSED TO! THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2015.

What you live as couples and as families — accompanied by the very charism of your Movement — the profound and irreplaceable joy that the Lord enables you to feel in domestic intimacy in joy and sorrow, in the happiness of your spouse's presence, in the growth of your children, in the human and spiritual fruitfulness that He grants you, all this is to be witnessed to, proclaimed and communicated outside so that others, in turn, may set out on this path. (...)

This mission which is entrusted to them, is all the more important inasmuch as the image of the family — as God wills it, composed of one man and one woman in view of the good of the spouses and also of the procreation and upbringing of children — is deformed through powerful

adverse projects supported by ideological trends. You are certainly already missionaries by the radiation of your family life to the spheres of your friendships and relationships, and also other areas.

In fact, a happy and balanced family, inhabited by the presence of God, speaks in and of itself of God's love for all men.

I also invite you to commit yourselves, if possible, in an ever more concrete way and with ever renewed creativity, to the activities that can be organized to welcome, form and support in the faith young couples in particular, before and after marriage.

THE INTERCESSORS

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<https://equipés-notre-dame.com/en/communication-and-liaison/pray-with-the-intercessors>

KEEP WATCH AND PRAY

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.

GENERAL INTENTION Lord, give couples the grace to be faithful to their commitment in the sacrament of marriage. May intercessory prayer strengthen them and unite them to you, Lord. May they be fervent and submit to you all the entreaties entrusted to them with confidence, so that your peace and joy reign in hearts, couples, families and the world.

NEWS FROM THE INTERCESSORS IN THE CENTRAL-EUROPE ZONE

News from the Lebanon Region

We were asked to take care of the Intercessors in Lebanon for roughly the past four years. As soon as we took up this service, we contacted the Teams in our Region to suggest that they participate in this prayer chain. We received about twenty-five responses of which twenty kept up their commitment. We send them regularly the Intercessors' Letter that you send us. Furthermore, we pass on to them the local prayer intentions as soon as we receive them.

Dolly & Chaouki KHOURY, Correspondent Couple for the Lebanon Region



News from the German-speaking Region

We met the new Teams Responsible Couple for our Region in Germany. We do not have any "registered" Intercessors. We created a Whatsapp service where we publish a text and a prayer intention once a month. With a bit of patience, we are going to progress and grow!

Lioba & Andreas EN-NEMOSER, Correspondent Couple for the German-speaking Region



An Appeal for France-Luxemburg-Switzerland Region

The Intercessors are looking for a Correspondent Couple for this Region! Thank you for praying for this intention.



God, who created the family and who wanted it to be a place of love and life, grant all families on earth to resemble the one You gave Your Son.