A NEW INTERCESSION...
FOR A NEW SPRINGTIME...



INTRODUCTION TO A NEW INTERCESSION MEETING

By Sister Stephen

OPENING PRAYER

+ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thank you, Father, for the privilege we have to come here together in the Mighty Name of Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, with Wisdom from on High. Help us to understand and experience deeply the New Intercession in the Spirit of Jesus, so that we might pray with the Lord Jesus, "Father in Heaven, …. Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

We promise to give you all the praise and honor and glory, for all that You have done, all that You are doing now, and all that You will do.

Let us pray together now:

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NIHIL OBSTAT AND IMPRIMATUR:

BISHOP FRANCIS XAVIER HIROAKI NAKANO DIOCESE OF KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN 2020



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(This teaching was given to new intercessors in Detroit, Michigan in 2019.)

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PROLOGUE

Some years ago, when Sister Stephen visited and talked to me about the work of the Catholic Charismatic Intercessors of the Fellowship of the Burning Bush (FBB), I responded after listening to her carefully:

"Sister, the intercession is the essence itself of the Church. The Church is Christ, and Christ is The Intercessor yesterday, today, and forever. We do not have another Christ that will reconcile us with the Father but the One Who lives interceding for us in His Own Glorious Existence and Who, from the Father, gives to us His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of New Life. Therefore, to speak of intercession in the Church, is to speak of what His Own Essence as Body of Christ is; even more, as the Christ that the Church is, and that makes Her Lord present in history and in the world." (2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:20, 22).

I must confess that in that conversation, I understood more clearly that the intercession prayer is an essential condition, so that the Church will accomplish its mission of salvation of men and women of all nations and of all times. The work of FBB makes reference to this fact, recognized from the beginning in the Church, of the presence and action of the charismas that the Holy Spirit gives to the Church for its own edification so that it will fulfill its mission efficiently. The "Catholic Charismatic Intercessors of the Fellowship of the Burning Bush" make an effort to convert intercession to a permanent prayer, lived in community and in groups interrelated by the bonds of charity, within the unity of the Catholic and Apostolic Church. The charisma of the intercession prayer takes place in the communion of a life of prayer nourished by the Fire of the Love of God.

In my opinion, the work of FBB provides something new to the mystic experience of the Church. In our times, it is one more manifestation of the permanent Pentecost in which the Church is immersed. It is like a strength that renews, a wind, a fire, a shaking that seeks to renew the conscience of the missionary power and sanctifying power of the intercession prayer in the Church.

+ Francisco Maria Aguilera Gonzalez Auxiliary Emeritus Bishop of México, México, D.F., June 29, 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

In our times, the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful new things in the Church. We hear about and experience new manifestations of God's Glory especially with the New Evangelization. Glory to God!

God has also given us a New Intercession. Today, we want to talk about the New Intercession in the Spirit of Jesus.

A. WHAT IS THE NEW INTERCESSION?

Individually, we all pray in many ways. Some of you may have also been in different types of group prayer or corporate worship. So, what is the "New Intercession"?

B. A NEW WAY OF THINKING

First of all, the focus or the purpose of the New Intercession, is *Intercession*. Many times, when we come to the Lord and pray, we want to receive God's Love and His Blessing. And we all need this. Amen?

But when we come to the Lord in intercession prayer, we come not to receive blessings for ourselves. We come to bless God and to bless His people. So, as we enter into intercession prayer, let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us change our way of thinking from ourselves to God and to His People.

C. WORKING WITH GOD

The second thing to remember, when we are praying in intercession, is that we are working with God! Alleluia! So, what does that mean?

With God, there are no limitations. God is not limited! Amen? And, like the Angel Gabriel said to our Blessed Mother Mary at the Annunciation, "With God, all things are possible." (Luke 1: 37)

Sometimes, we need a miracle. However, it may be hard for us to believe God for a miracle, especially if we have never seen a miracle. So, I encourage you: Don't look at your own limited experience when you pray in intercession. Look at Who God IS and what is possible for Him. Hallelujah!

D. HOW GOD THINKS

As we are working with God, it is important to understand a little bit of how God thinks. A lot of people, when they come to God in prayer, come and tell Him all their problems, over and over and over. And then, they tell Him all the answers! This is what I call defensive praying. I'm sorry I have to tell you today: **God is not defensive**. He lives and works in a different way.

Then there are some people, when they come to God in prayer, they start telling God what to do. They even quote the Bible: "God, you said it right here in the Bible. You promised in Your Word. So, I claim it in the Name of Jesus". And they continue claiming, and claiming, and claiming. I call that aggressive praying. I'm sorry I have to tell you today: **God is not aggressive**. He lives and works in a totally different way.

God is creative. He is always doing something *new*. So, when we come to God in our prayer of intercession, we need to take our focus off what we see or expect. Each one needs to open his mind and heart, and begin to look for the *new* thing that God wants to do today. Come, Holy Spirit!

II. HOW TO PRAY IN THE NEW INTERCESSION

The Holy Spirit has taught us a special method of how to pray in the New Intercession. This is a practical method with two points: Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We use this method in the New Intercession: Jesus and the Holy Spirit. What is this new method and how do we do this? Let's take a look at the first point: Jesus.

A. JESUS

One day, the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord teach us how to pray." The Lord said,

"When you pray, say this: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

(Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6: 9-13)

This a very beautiful and powerful prayer. And we pray this prayer often. Right? However, this is not only a prayer, but Jesus was also giving an answer to the disciples' question of "How to pray?" In John 12: 49, Jesus, said, "I only speak what I hear my Father speaking." When Jesus prayed the "Our Father", He was speaking as the Son of God to His Father, but He was also speaking as the Holy Spirit was leading Him. Therefore, the "Our Father" is not only a powerful prayer, but it is also a revelation from the Holy Spirit on the steps to follow when we pray.

So how does Jesus start? "Our Father, Who art in Heaven". You see what He does? He puts God first, and not the problems. This is very important. Often when people go to God, they just present their list of needs, and don't even say hello. Isn't it true? So, Jesus is teaching us a new order in our way to pray: Put God first, and not the problems!

How do we put God first? Jesus continues His Prayer: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven, *hallowed be Thy Name*." Jesus calls on God by Name. Then He starts praising and worshipping God. Through Baptism into the Victorious Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, we become Children of God. And then, we can also call on God as "Our Father".

(Romans 8: 15). As we call on His Name, we put God first when we pray. Then we can minister unto Him as Number One by praise and worship.

In Psalm 22:3, the Lord promises, that He will make His Home in the praises of His People. Hallelujah! What does this mean? Whenever we praise the Lord, He will come to us and manifest His Presence. Alleluia! And when we praise the Lord in intercession, He goes personally to the people that we are praying for and manifests His Presence to them. We can pray for many things for others. But the bottom line is: Everybody really needs Jesus. Isn't that true? So, when we are praising the Lord, we are welcoming Jesus into every situation and into every person's life. And when Jesus comes, He brings everything from Heaven with Him. Alleluia! Praise God!

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The second point on how to pray is: The Holy Spirit.

A NEW DIRECTION

When Jesus prayed the "Our Father", the next thing He said, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

What is He saying here? How is Jesus praying? Jesus is praying to bring Heaven into the earth. This reveals a new direction in praying.

What do many of us usually try to do when we pray? How often are we trying to get God to fix something? How often are we trying to get earth into Heaven? Did you ever try to swim up a stream, and just get tired swimming? Well, the same thing can happen when we pray. Jesus is trying to get Heaven into earth and we are "swimming upstream" trying to get earth into Heaven. So, we just get tried.

In the Our Father, the Lord Jesus invites us first to step into Heaven, and then with Him, bring Heaven into the earth. Alleluia! So here, God teaches us a *new direction* for praying in the New Intercession: *from Heaven to earth*.

THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS HOW TO PRAY

How can we do this? How are we going to get into Heaven? The fact is, we don't know how to do this. We are not able to get into Heaven by ourselves. In the Bible, St. Paul refers to this in his Letter to the Romans. We do not know how to pray. Everybody in the world has the same problem. Nobody knows how to pray right. But St. Paul goes on to say in the next verse, the Holy Spirit will come and help us, and He knows how to pray according to the Will of God. (see Romans 8: 26 - 27)

The Holy Spirit knows how to pray. He knows God's Kingdom and God's Will. And the Lord Jesus has given the Holy Spirit to dwell in us through our Baptism. The Holy Spirit can teach us how to pray. He knows how to get us into Heaven. And He knows how to bring Heaven into the earth. Hallelujah! This is really wonderful!

When we praise and worship God, as Jesus as He taught in the Our Father, Heaven begins to open. The Holy Spirit Himself lifts us up in the spirit, so we can enter in and draw close to the Heart of God. Then, with the Holy Spirit, we ask God our Father and the Lord Jesus, "Lord, how do you see this situation we are praying for? What do you want to do in this situation? And how are we supposed to pray?" The Holy Spirit will reveal to us what God wants and lead us step by step in intercession.

THE TWO QUESTIONS

Whenever we pray, the Holy Spirit can speak to us in many ways: for example, through Bible verses, or spiritual visions, or prophecies. These messages are what we call a revelation from God. Sometimes people think that when they receive these messages they are praying in intercession. However, revelation is not the same thing as intercession prayer. Revelations only help us to understand God's way of thinking and what He wants to do for us and for others. So, we need to listen to God's messages, and then ask Holy Spirit two questions:

- 1. What do these revelations mean? and
- 2. How are we to pray with these revelations to bring Heaven into earth?

The Holy Spirit will give us understanding of God's messages. And He will even give us more revelation on how to pray to bring Heaven into the earth for our people. Come Holy, Spirit! You are welcome. Amen.

C. CONCLUDING INTERCESSION PRAYER

Then at the end of the intercession meeting, we can pray a summary intercession prayer:

Father, I believe and receive all the promises and blessings from Heaven, that You are giving to all those we are praying for today, in the Name of Jesus.

Next, we pray with Our Blessed Mother in her words at the Annunciation. We speak for all those we are praying for: "Let it be done to (us) according to Your Word." (Luke 1: 38)

Then, we pray the "yes of Jesus", speaking on behalf of all those for whom we are praying. We ask God, by our "yes", to reverse all times that people said "no" to God. We ask Him to give all a new grace to say "yes" to God and to accept all that He is giving them now.

"Not my will but Your Will be done." (Luke 22: 42) (We declare these Words of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit as an official decree, repeating these words out loud until we experience a spiritual breakthrough of freedom into God's Peace.)

D. ALL THE GLORY TO GOD

Finally, we give all glory to God, for everything that He's done, everything He's doing now, and everything that He will do.

GLORY BE TO (YOU, ALMIGHTY GOD),

WHOSE POWER WORKING IN US,

CAN DO INFINITELY MORE

THAN WE CAN ASK FOR OR IMAGINE;

GLORY BE TO (YOU) FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS

FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN. (see Ephesians 3:20-22)

III. FINAL SUMMARY

There are so many things we can say about the *New Intercession*. This booklet contains just a few practical points to guide us as we pray in a *New Intercession* prayer meeting.

In summary, we can say that the *New Intercession* is a gift to us from Our Lord Jesus Christ. His prayer to us of the "Our Father" reveals important practical points of how to pray in the *New Intercession*.

The New Intercession has a new way of thinking: not only about what we can receive ourselves, but of what we can give God and His People. We are working with God in intercession. Therefore, our expectations need to be unlimited as God is. We can expect miracles based on God's Nature not on our experience. And the kind of answers we can look for are the creative new things that God wants to do, because we have a creative God. Alleluia!

In the *New Intercession*, we follow a two-point method: *Jesus and the Holy Spirit*. Following the pattern that the Lord Jesus gave us in the "Our Father", we first call on God's Name and thus *put God first*, not the problems. As we continue to put God first by praise and worship the Holy Spirit helps us enter into Heaven, and come closer to Our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus. Here the Lord reveals to us His Plan and His Will for us and our people. Then, the Holy Spirit will lead us step by step in how to pray in union with God to bring His Kingdom and His Will *from Heaven into the earth*. From Heaven into earth is the *new direction* of the *New Intercession*.

Our Blessed Mother summarized the *New Intercession* very well at the wedding in Cana, "Go to Jesus and do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5)

Finally, we end our *New Intercession* Prayer by giving all intentions back to Our Father in Heaven and then giving all Glory to God.

The FBB New Intercession in the Spirit of Jesus Training Course offers the opportunity to go much deeper into the gift of the New Intercession. You are welcome to contact us for more information. Yes, it is time to go deeper NOW. Amen! Alleluia!

<u>APPENDIX A:</u> <u>SCRIPTURAL OUTLINE</u>

APPENDIX B:

INTERCESSOR'S MIRACLE PRAYER

APPENDIX C:

INTERCESSOR'S PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

APPENDIX A:

SCRIPTURAL OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. WHAT IS NEW INTERCESSION?
- B. A NEW WAY OF THINKING
- C. WORKING WITH GOD (Luke 1:37)
- D. HOW GOD THINKS

II. HOW TO PRAY IN THE NEW INTERCESSION

A. JESUS

Luke 11:1 – 4; Matthew 6: 9-13; John 12:49, Romans 8:15, Psalm 22:3

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT
A NEW DIRECTION
HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS HOW TO PRAY
Romans 8: 26-27
THE TWO QUESTIONS

C. CONCLUDING INTERCESSION PRAYER Luke 1: 38; Luke 2: 42

D. ALL GLORY TO GOD Ephesians 3: 21-22)

III. FINAL SUMMARY John 2:5

APPENDIX B:

INTERCESSOR'S MIRACLE PRAYER

(To Renew Our Commitment of Love to Jesus)

"The Love of God has been poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Spirit; and this is God's Gift to us." (Romans 5:5)

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come."

We sing and pray for a time to welcome and invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill us even more with God's Divine Love and all of His Gifts right now.

As the Holy Spirit is filling our hearts even more with God's Divine Love right now, we do not want to keep this Love just for ourselves. But we give it back first of all to Our Father in Heaven. Our Almighty Father has loved us with all of His Heart and we see this especially in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us renew our commitment of love to Our Father in Heaven together. And then renew our love to the Lord Jesus.

Let us pray:

"Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for loving me with all of Your Heart, especially through our Lord Jesus Christ. I love you with all of my heart too. And I also love you in reparation for all those who do not love you today."

We sing and pray a while, loving Our Father in Heaven ourselves. Then, as we love Our Father for others, especially in reparation for those who do not love God, we lift them up in our hands to the Father. "Abba Father, how I love you."

Now we want to renew our commitment of love to Jesus together.

Let us pray:

"Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me with all of Your Heart and all of Your Life. Thank you for even shedding Your Precious Blood and dying

on the cross for me. Thank you for forgiving all of my sins through your Holy Cross.

"Lord Jesus, come more deeply into my heart right now. Fill me more with your Divine Love, with Your Divine Life. Please forgive me all my sins. I ask you to forgive me especially for all the times I was "God's little helper". Forgive me when I did not come to You first and ask You first what You wanted me to do, even when I pray. I DO want to follow You, Lord Jesus. Heal me, Lord. Fill me more with your Holy Spirit and Your Divine Love. Live out Your Life in Me.

"Come, Holy Spirit. Fill me more with Your Divine Love. Make Jesus the Lord of my whole life. I surrender my whole life to You. I give you my way of thinking I give you my way of doing things. I give you my way of praying. I renounce all the ways of the world. I renounce all sin. I renounce Satan and all his evil ways and all his evil spirits.

"I choose You, Lord Jesus. I choose Your Ways. Come, Holy Spirit. Fill me more with Your Divine Love. Make Jesus the Lord of my whole life and the Lord of my prayer. Release in me all of Your Gifts. Help me to love other people as Jesus does. Teach me how to pray. Help me to follow Jesus. Help me to be faithful to Jesus, so I can live in God's Family forever. Amen."

We can now take some time to sing and pray a love song to Jesus. As we pray, remember how Jesus came to Thomas after the resurrection. He said, "Look Thomas. Here are the wounds in My Hands and Feet and Side. Put your finger there. Doubt no longer, but only believe. This same Jesus is here with us right now. As we pray, close your eyes and look at Jesus as Thomas did. And maybe somehow you can reach up and put your finger into the wounds of Jesus today. Let His Precious Blood wash through you with all His Love and Mercy and Healing and Miracles. Then let us lift up our people to Jesus. Place them in His Sacred Heart so His precious Blood can wash through them, too, with all His Grace and Miracles.

Let us sing and pray, "Precious Jesus, how I love You." Amen.

APPENDIX C:

INTERCESSOR'S PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

(TO RELEASE OTHERS TO JESUS)

As the Holy Spirit leads, after a time of praise and worship, we pray with Jesus our Lord:

For those who have hurt us, for those who are not doing or have not done what we think they should have done, for those who are not doing what God wants: "Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." For those who are in sin: "Father, do not hold their sins against them." And I choose to forgive them and release them in the name of Jesus.

Father, forgive me for anything I said or thought or felt or did to others that could keep them in bondage, especially repeating the negative things even if they were true. I ask for the Mind and the Heart of Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, help us to see one another as You do. Help us to speak about one another as you do. Holy Spirit, show us how to pray for one another. Amen.

After praying this prayer, we lift the person or persons up to Jesus and place them in His Sacred Heart. Then we sing praising the Lord, calling on the Name of Jesus, and praying in the Holy Spirit until the Holy Spirit brings to our mind how to think and pray for them, or until the burden we feel for them lifts from our hearts and we experience God's Peace and Love toward them. We end with praise and thanksgiving to God for all He has done in our time of intercession.

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