



CHARISM OF: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Defining The Charism

The Holy Spirit gives a charism of intercession to certain members of the Mystical Body that's sole aim is to strengthen, defend, and protect others within the Church community through prayer, so others can bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. The charism of intercession empowers an individual to prayer without ceasing for the intentions of others with the great faith that prayer changes things. They often serve as a means by which God's love reaches others. The biblical definition of intercession is speaking to God on behalf of another; another person, people, group, situation, church, or community.

Intercession is a sacrifice of our time and life's focus. It is an example of how we can lay down our life for another. Intercessors see and hear things through God's eyes and are marked by God as stated in Ezekiel 9:1-5.

Intercession as a charism serves as an example to the whole Church of perseverance in prayer and makes the steadfastness of God present in the world. As a baptized Catholic Christian, we are all called to a life of prayer but those with an intercession charism have a supernaturally equipped orientation toward intercessory prayer that serves as both an example to others and an avenue of grace for the Church.

Pray: *Holy Spirit, open my awareness of how you are inviting me to embrace my charism of intercession. Highlight all the people that you would like me to pray for today and give me the words to pray for them well. Strengthen my faith and dependence on you so that I might be steadfast in prayer no matter what situations I might face today. And thank you for the gift of prayer, that I might offer up my brothers and sisters in Christ to you using this beautiful charism. Amen.*

Exercising The Charism

Our use of the charism of Intercessory Prayer is one that seeks the Lord to pour out graces and power into the world through our exercising supernatural faith and openness to His ways for this to happen. We must believe that He will work through prayerful intercession. We are powerless, but when we enter into the love of the Most Holy Trinity the power is unleashed into the world.

Pray in Jesus' name and pray regularly and with dedication. It is important to be rooted in the passages of scripture especially those that apply to the situations presented to you. It is important to be informed of the situations you are praying for. Always consider what God is saying about the situation. Allow yourself to pray with confidence and with honesty. Be present to God on behalf of others with your whole heart. Listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance and persistence in your intercessory prayer.

Individuals exercising the Charism of Intercession can also join or start a prayer group or prayer ministry within your community.

Colossians 1:9-12 "Therefore, from the day we heard this, we do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with every power, in accord with his glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light."

Ephesians 6:18 "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones."



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Studying The Charism

We look to our saints to learn more about the Charism of Intercession. In particular, we look to St. Therese of Lisieux to understand more about this form of prayer. She realized that our prayer has power because it is the cry of children to their Father. We are uniting our will with the will of the Father. Approaching prayer in this radical way of uniting our will with that of the Father changes the way we pray. We can step out and ask for prayer boldly and with confidence, because we can trust that the prayers will help bring about God's will in our lives, not our own will. Her "little way" involves recognizing our own weakness and littleness. One of the most fundamental keys to intercession is believing in the power of our prayers despite our littleness and imperfection. God delights in us and desires to use us in our littleness making room for God to work. Honest prayer from the heart.

St. Teresa of Avila exercised a beautiful gift of Intercessory prayer as she once observed a demon choking a priest celebrating Mass for her Carmelite Community. Her intercession helped defend the priest from the demonic attack he was suffering.

St. Teresa of Calcutta's spiritual rapid fire weapon of intercessory prayer consisted of ten Memorares – the tenth for thanksgiving of God answering the request of the nine already prayed. She used this prayer for curing the sick child, before important discussions or when passports went missing, to request heavenly aid when the fuel supply was running short on a night time mission and the destination was still far away in the darkness.

Living The Charism

In John 10:27 we hear, "My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me." In the charism of intercession we have lots of time for conversation with the Lord, we learn to hear the voice of God and then learn to really intercede in a prophetic way. Living a charism also requires refinement through trials and tribulations in order to teach us how to persevere in God's mission for each one of us. It is not about spiritual consolations. It is about serving the Lord and His people.

Develop a practice of praying for leaders in church, community, and nation, interceding for their protection from evil with wisdom, discernment, and guidance in their roles and responsibilities.

This is a powerful gift and weapon from the Holy Spirit for building up our communities and meant to strengthen others as they minister and serve Christ. This would be for our parish ministries and archdiocesan ministries for individuals who need the Holy Spirit to pour out graces and defend and protect all those in strife.

When people have been prayed for through intercessory prayer they have told how joy has been restored to their lives. The intercessor feels an inner peace when involved in intercessory prayer and it builds their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It gives a spiritual satisfaction and helps the person with their journey to salvation.

Cultivate a spirit of gratitude in your charism of intercession, regularly giving thanks to God for his faithfulness in answering prayers and acknowledging His sovereignty.

Declaration statements: The Holy Spirit has chosen me to be a powerful force of grace in the world through my prayers.

I must bring others to God who might not have words to go to Him themselves.