

# Eucharistic Revival Charism - \_1 Intercessory Prayer- Transcript – Speaker: Jane Guenther

January 9, 2025, 7-8PM

So, good evening to everyone online.

We're gonna just wait a couple more minutes to see if anyone else comes online. And I wanna be able to see all of you.

I can actually see all of you. How's that sound?

Yeah. So make sure you take a handout that are in the back of the room.

Wonderful. I think that we're gonna go ahead and get started, and anyone who joins us will just pick up where we are going to be, but I'm really excited for the beginning of this series. This is really a response, Archbishop Rozanski and I had a meeting about the Eucharistic Revival and its effects going forward in this missionary year and so this was what we came up with, like to teach people about the gifts that they've been given is really a way to live a Eucharistic missionary lifestyle.

So it is that so many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are actually molded and furthered through the Great gift of the Eucharist that we receive.

It empowers what we do in the Lord's name. So we'll just begin with a little prayer.

We know that Mary is the model of intercession. In *Lumen gentium*, it actually says that through the gift and role of divine maternity, Mary is united with her son the Redeemer, and with his singular graces and offices, by these, the Blessed Virgin is also united with the church, so in the most holy virgin, the church has already reached that perfection whereby she exists without a spot or wrinkle.

And so we're gonna ask for her intercession as we begin,

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Mary, as you form Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, form us by the same Holy Spirit into the one body of your Son.

Mary, since you are spouse of the Spirit and Mother of Mercy, teach us to yield to the Spirit that we may be channels of mercy to the world.

Lord, fill us with your Spirit. Possess us that your Spirit can use us for the fulfillment of your Kingdom as it is fulfilled in Mary, our Queen.

Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may be holy as the Father is holy and Immaculate as Mary, Your Mother is Immaculate.

Lord, fill us with your mercy so that we may be overflowing vessels of your mercy. Like Mary, our mother of mercy. Amen.

In the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

So on your handouts, and everyone at home should have received this electronically, just so you know, like we're going to kind of divide our evening's up as we go through the first six months of the year until Corpus Christi, when the Eucharistic Revival and its efforts come to a close, we're going to be covering a lot of topics, a lot of these spiritual gifts. So tonight's is intercessory prayer.

But then the next two Thursdays that we'll have in January will be January 23rd and we'll be looking at the spiritual gift of hospitality. And then on January 30th, the spiritual gift of service. And then you know it'll go on to have two every month, February through June till the close of the Eucharistic Revival.

So as we enter into this endeavor, hopefully many of you can join us on whatever the spiritual gifts that you feel most drawn to, to share and to learn.

I will first spend time defining the charism and then we'll talk about exercising the charism. You know, a lot of times we've said, use it or lose it.

Bishop Herman used to often say, you know, the spiritual life is like spiritual.

Olympics. People don't make it to the Olympics if they don't exercise whatever their particular great talent is in in the world of the Olympics, they wouldn't get to the Olympics if they didn't exercise all those muscles to become the best in their particular field. Whether that's, you know, swimming or skiing or track and field. All of those things happen because the person is exercising their muscles and they're honing that craft to its perfection. And so it's important that we talk about the exercising of our charism and then we'll talk about one of the ways in which charisms are advanced is through the study. What's the study that we can enter into?

And then lastly, I will be talking about living the charism. What does it mean to really enter into this life of living whatever the charism is that we're talking about in that particular evening. So that's kind of the way our hour will go, not necessarily exactly 15 minutes for each of those because some of them take more discussion than others, but basically it will always be that model of these 4 categories.

So you know it's important that we really understand what intercessory prayer is, and you know, I know you all can read, so I'm not going to read to you, but I'm going to expand a bit on this. What is written there?

The Holy Spirit's charism of intercession really is a certain gift that's been given to some in the mystical body of Christ. And so we can say everyone can pray. That's not like, that's not what this is about. We encourage everyone to pray, but some people have been given a particular gift. Which is in this vein of intercessory prayer.

To persevere in prayer for another. Like so, this isn't praying like you know, oh, I want to do well on a test tomorrow, you know, so I'm going to pray for myself. This is always oriented towards another person and that's the important thing about charisms in general is that we understand and know that charisms are given to the church first and foremost for the building up of the Body of Christ. But it is always oriented towards the other. It is not something that is for us. It is oriented towards another and we would know that like on our own efforts to keep praying for another person, and partially this is just because of the way we are built as humans.

It's hard to sustain to always want to pray for another person, and so it's so clear that that actually, mystically, in the body is sustained by Christ. Putting that desire inside of us and sustaining that desire to continue to pray for another person. So we all know when we have people who we love and they are experiencing some sort of hard time in their life, we are, we often feel an urge to pray for that specific person because we have a love for them, right and so first and foremost, we would want to identify like why do we have that urge? Why does that urge

exist in us, and that can only come really from God? Like the urge to pray for another person and or a community or a particular facet of our world, like when people are just really driven to pray for World Peace.

That drivenness is really at the bidding of our Lord. You know, so we want to enter into the reality of that the answer that lies in God's design for us when he created us that he provided us with family, friends and a community.

And as we've actually progressed through our lives he expects us to pray for each of our loved ones. This commandment for us is even expressed in Galatians 6:2, which reads, 'Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ'. So through bearing one another's burdens, we are fulfilling the law of Christ. So when you feel that urge to pray for another person, that particular urge is actually the beginning of what one would call intercession. It's the kind of prayer that that is.

We understand that intercessory prayer refers to this act of intervening or acting on behalf of another person or a particular community or entity. The definition comes from the Latin word *intercessio*, which roughly translates to mediate, come between or interpose on behalf of others.

When we look at the biblical definition of intercession, it carries a similar meaning but more spiritual weight. When the Bible references intercession, that intercession works on both the intercession subject and all of humanity.

Why? Why is that? Why do you guys think that is?

Because I can ask you, why do you think that is?

Why does it have an effect on all of humanity?

Because we're all part of the body of Christ and so like our urge and our desire is not only for our loved one or that person that we've been urged to intercede for, it has this amazing, broader scope of what it means to the entire body and we know that through scripture, where it says like when one in the body is weeping, do we all weep?

I mean, that's what Scripture tells us. And when one is rejoicing, we all rejoice.

So like the fact that this is not like I think so often we think of our intercession as such, pointed towards one individual, and because it's pointed towards that one individual that we love that's the only thing being affected. It's like, oh, no, it's so more far reaching and actually, that should encourage us when we actually get that urge to pray for that single person.

Because we should see the more cosmos kind of effect that that can have. And that really puts intercession in this just incredibly valuable place in how God is caring for providentially the Kingdom, right?

So you know, I mean, I'm sure many of you know that story about the little boy who's walking along the seashore and he's throwing one starfish in at a time and somebody walks along and says, you know, you're wasting your time. Why? Why are you doing that? There's thousands and millions of those starfishes on the sea shore and how it meant something to that one. Right. And how it meant something to that one means what can happen? Like, I mean, we don't know how starfish think, but what can happen to the rest of those starfish who see that? One of their starfish ended up back in the ocean.

Does it give hope? Does it change the perspective?

And yes, some might die because they didn't get thrown back. But there is something in the quality of increasing the hope for everyone by the action to one. Right. And so that gives intercession just an incredibly broader scope than it is for just one person. It's affecting the whole and not just one.

So one of the best ways to visualize biblical intercession as that is understood, is to picture a very long metal chain, each notch in the chain represents a person, and like the chain, we're all connected. And when you say an intercessory prayer for another person, the entire chain becomes stronger in Christ.

But what a beautiful image, right? To think of ourselves, just as this enormous connected chain. Sometimes I think that we see so much that God is, you know this entity of supreme glory looking upon us, and he has an expectation that we would care for one another here on Earth.

But the intercessory prayers that we provide actually are a vital part, a vital part of God's vision as they allow us to seek his help for someone else.

So single reason we say intercessory prayers, as there are many circumstances in which we need to use them.

One is because we need to ask God to support someone through a difficult hard time.

One is to ask, actually, for this loved one or anyone in our family to be geared towards and oriented towards salvation.

To ask for God's mercy or help during natural disasters, right? I mean, think about what happens, like what's happening when we think right now about the fires in California?

Are people orienting themselves in intercessory prayer for those people who they don't even know? Because why? Because this natural disaster, this wind that is moving this fire and consuming homes, it moves us to desire that God's mercy would be with them.

That their lives wouldn't be lost. Maybe their houses might burn, but let's get those people out of there. Like let's ask for the intercession to move that disaster.

One of the biggest things that inhibits all of us is unforgiveness.

One of the biggest factors of really, the inability to move forward in our relationship with God and others is holding on to unforgiveness. So through intercession, one of the biggest things we can ask is for forgiveness to fill the heart of that individual. Because they don't even recognize or know the places where they are holding on to unforgiveness.

So grant them, O Lord, that they would learn to forgive. That their Heart and their desire would be to forgive others who have hurt them.

And then just the basics of asking God to actually uplift another person to him, so to move him in the direction to move any person in the direction towards the Lord.

So many times, you know, when we think about this charism of intercession, it is like one of the Prime Saints that people will look to in terms of the actual prayer of intercessory prayer would be to look to Saint Monica about her praying for so long for her son, Augustine, right?

So what is it about the quality, it's not about Saint Monica, it's about the quality that she brought to her prayer being that of being so focused on persevering. What she desired to see for her son.

And what does our perseverance and prayer do? It makes visible the steadfast love of the Lord. Right. So we know that scripture, where it says the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, the steadfastness of the Lord's Love never ceases. Well. We make that visible by our perseverance in prayer.

We're going to move a little bit now to how do we exercise this charisma?

Well, first and foremost, we have to believe we've been called to the charism. So we have to respond, right? We have to respond to the urges that the Lord has placed on us, whether it's for a certain person or a certain community. We have to respond to that. If you're a person who's gotten awakened in the night to pray for someone, Maybe even someone you don't know. To respond to that urge, even in the middle of the night. Right. That's a person, living and exercising this charism of the of intercessory prayer as one that is supernatural faith in the Lord's desire, and the openness to how his ways will be made visible in the world.

So it's so clear that in many ways, this charism of intercessory prayer is very tied to the gift of faith. I'm not going to do this, responding to an urge to pray for another, if I don't actually have faith.

So sometimes the place to step back into when we actually realize I'm receiving this like I'm receiving the desire to pray or I'm being woken up to pray for a particular individual in the middle of the night that I might not even know. But in my response, it begins because I have a foundation of faith that says this is not me doing this. Like I don't normally wake myself up in the middle of night.

Not laying there going. Hey, Jane, wake up, right? But I do hear the Lord urging me to do that. And I remember once talking to my own spiritual director and saying, you know, there are nights where I will be up all night just praying for these people who God places before me. And I said, how long can I do this?

Because you start to think on a logical sense, like I have been doing this for four days straight and gotten like one hour of sleep, like how I'm going to stop functioning at a certain point.

And he said, well, you'll do it as long as the Lord wants you to. That comes from your gift of faith. Like you don't, I mean, like his words to me, where you don't have to worry about the how long. Because God's, the author of this and God's, the one that's going to sustain you and he will end it when he wants to end.

But you have to have the faith. Like I had to stop questioning I need sleep over doing this right. Because it was true. You know, 'cause the thing with my spiritual director asked me was like, are you tired? I was like, no. Are you functioning less at work? No. Are you unable to answer people's questions. You know, in a factual sort of way, no.

None of those things are happening to me. And he's like, well, then this is a supernatural gift that the Lord has asked of you, and you will do it as long as he asks you to.

And we can't be afraid to like exercise our charism, if that's what the Lord does, then, so be it and he will sustain you. I mean, he is who sustained St. Monica to keep praying for her son and what a gift he is to the church. Her perseverance is that prime example to all of us.

We want to remember that as we're exercising this gift that we're praying in Jesus name, we're doing these things for the other person, not oh you know, cuz Jane wants this to happen a lot of

times. This is where having an intimate relationship with Christ allows us to actually pray what the Lord wants for that person and this is particularly clear when I don't know the person. Right, when I have no facts about these persons that the Lord urges me to pray for, all I can do is listen to what the Lord's saying to me about what that person's needs are.

And in some realms of intercessory prayer teachings, they would say that that's praying prophetic intercession. Right, because what does a prophet do? Prophet speaks for the Lord. And so prophetic intercession is really, when I abandoned my own thoughts and ideas about what someone might need to whatever the Lord says he wants and let the Lord guide your prayer for the other.

Sometimes we wanna be with other people to exercise this beautiful gift of the charism of intercession. Why? Because when that supernatural gift comes together amongst a group, what are we? What are we allowed to do more fully? We're allowed to see how the entire body is in unity for the need of the other, right.

So there's a lot of power. This is part of why, like in Matthew, it says you know when two or three are gathered in my name and pray in unity about anything, I will grant it. Now. He's granting it according to his will. Not according to ours. But he is stating how important it is that the unity of the body can bring about strength to this intercessory prayer. So part of what can happen is I can pray intercessory prayer on my own, but I can also be called to join in exercising the charism of intercession.

By having a prayer group or a prayer ministry specifically called to do that, and to do that together to strengthen the prayer. So in Colossians 1:9-12, as it says on our sheet, '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'.

So like, I don't know, when you hear that, if you hear what I hear. What I hear is that we are joined together not just with our brothers and sisters here on Earth, but the heavenly realm. Like each and every one of your guardian angels, each and every one of the choirs of angels that want and are called to be with us. Right. So this. Is part of that whole reality of like calling forth the duty and responsibility of those choirs of angels. So like in this, disaster that's happening in California.

We could call upon the Thrones, the Choir of Thrones, to assist us in interceding for that to be thwarted and come to an end. So these people would know the merciful love of the Lord and not be harmed, right?

But we can call upon the Thrones and Colossians actually equips us to know that that's what's going on when he says to share in the inheritance of the Holy Ones in light.

They're in the most brilliant light, right? They're gazing on the beatific vision. They're gazing on the eyes of our Lord, and we, although Veiled, are sharing in that glory.

So we could just be very specific in this exercising the gift and charism, and I'm just going to say like this is very, I kind of even hate doing this because it's like I don't want to limit the way the spirit might guide any of us to pray, but if you're looking for a structure, for what intercessory prayer should look like, you first want to start with an address to our Trinitarian God, to God the Father, to Jesus, to the Holy Spirit.

We want to then be very clear and concrete like I think this is part of what happens sometimes as people pray nebulously. You know what I mean by that?

Like they just kind of throw this nebulous thought out and it's like, no, actually intercessory prayer is direct. You state the reason for why you're coming to the supplication of the Lord.

I ask today, that you grant this mother relief. Of her pain.

You even be more specific of her knee pain, or her left toe.

I don't care what it is but be specific. Like it's OK to pray that way with that kind of specificity.

Your elaboration of that specificity, for instance in the person who might have great need for relief from their knee pain, you could pray with specificity that she has suffered greatly after twisting her knee and needs the relief so that she might come back. What? To the service of God?

We know that pain can inhibit our ability to be of service to the Kingdom. Then when we're doing the intercessory prayer, it's so important that the next thing we do is give praise and thankfulness to God. I know that you look after all of our needs and the needs of others both here on Earth and above in heaven.

I am positive of that. I'm stating a faith fact. And then we finish with a personal supplication for our intercession.

I give myself to you and ask you to grant, Mary, my mother, mother of mercy in Jesus. Name this request and then we end with Amen.

So I'm gonna just give you a little synopsis.

Let's say that we were praying for someone's salvation. You might draw inspiration from this intercessory prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, today I cross paths with one of God's people.

Lord, they don't know you and your son Jesus Christ.

Please work through me and guide them to salvation.

Let them understand God's power, love and glory and let the will of God touch them in the name of God's Kingdom. Amen.

So I just am gonna ask you guys to all pair up and I'm gonna pair you all up online to go into a room together and share an intercessory prayer following.

Kind of those steps, OK.

.....

So I brought you all back because there were many of you who I couldn't assign to a room, so we're gonna move towards the studying the charism.

We can easily move towards studying the Saints, I'm gonna try to do something over here.

Alright, so here is the other tips to like when we're moving towards the idea of studying. To be effective intercessors. One, we would dig into the Bible. I mean, we always have our Saints and there's lots of Saints who are great to be delving into, and I named a few of them on that sheet. But the other principles would be to dig into the Bible.

It's very helpful because in Scripture, not only does the Lord teach us how to pray, but he gives us lots of places in Scripture where he gives us the effect of our prayer. Which then can build us in our faith. We want to make sure that we are those who in this striving to use and exercise the charism that we are pursuing a deep, intimate relationship with the Lord.

Thirdly, we ask and we wait.

Like we have to be people in intercession who ask and are OK with this waiting. And in our waiting, we can be very attentive with our ears to listening. So that remember what I talked about the prophetic intercession. If I'm listening to the Lord, I can hone my intercession to pray more in that specificity in that process then find myself in the presence of God stronger and stronger and it's interesting because when we walk the journey of intercessory prayer with him, we find ourselves Co-laboring with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and the Father and it unites us to this Trinitarian love.

So we also, if we're really called to this intercessory prayer, we want to also open ourselves up to pursue other spiritual gifts. Like pursuing these other spiritual gifts that work together and reveal through them more specifics of how we should intercede, where we should go in our intercession, how and what we should be interceding specifically for to be effective.

So we say what?

What makes prayer efficacious is that unity with God and the specificity of his will being articulated along with ours and then it would really be to study the reality of how I place my full trust in God's plan and not mine. How I place myself in full trust in God's plan and not my own.

So as we finish out tonight, you know, part of what I said at the beginning is this is that the Eucharistic Revival efforts was to help us create a missionary lifestyle, a Eucharistic missionary lifestyle. And that would be a living the charism of intercession as a way of life so it becomes a way of living out of what St. Peter describes as offering spiritual sacrifices.

In Peter 1:2-5 he says you too are living stones built as an edifice of spirit into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The offering of these spiritual sacrifices are expressed in various ways. One is as a prayer of praise of thanks, of contrition of petition. One is as a life of good deeds and generosity.

Literally, as Romans 12:1 says, to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, and above all, in the Eucharist, as we unite ourselves with Christ in the breaking of the bread or the forgiveness of sins, so when we offer the gifts and sacrifices for sins, it really is the very nature of our common priesthood and of this supernatural gift of intercession.

I am moving toward identifying a life of intercession with offering spiritual sacrifices.

Which means what?



I'm growing in holiness, which is the whole thing that John Paul II said. We're all called to holiness. And so when we are like kind of questioning how am I growing in holiness? Well, by exercising your gift and desiring to study more and to live it in this Eucharistic missionary lifestyle.

So we know that when one sacrifices, it cleanses, to make holy and to make a spiritual sacrifice is to make holy by offering ourselves in communion with the Holy Spirit. The key issue in living such a life of intercession in holiness, because we're offering spiritual sacrifices, sometimes scares us as those who are like. I mean, I've often heard people say like I'm not that sister in the contemplative order, who all day long can pray.

That sacrifice, right, we live, you and I live in the world. So how am I gonna do that? Well, holiness is not a reward for a good life or for things well done. It is the presence of another person within us. Holiness is the presence and the power of the person of the Lord Jesus, through the working of the Holy Spirit. So literally, holiness is being possessed and led by the Holy Spirit.

So Holiness has to do more with the content of the vessel and less with the worthiness of the vessel. So it's like in scripture it says don't say that you are not worthy, right? Don't say that you can't do this.

You're not too young. You're not too old, like these, things all come out of that. It's the contents of the vessel and not the worthiness. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we allow to come, will transform our vessels of clay into his vessels for the Kingdom.

So the 1st and continuing step in holiness is to ask for it. Ask for his spirit to fill your heart. It is in this holiness that ushers in the Kingdom. So to live a life of intercession means to live a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit, yielding to him our hearts, our minds and wills, in order that he might use us for the establishment of the Kingdom.

Paul, put it this way. In the pursuit of perfect charity, which guides your existence. What attitude could you have other than a total surrender to the Holy Spirit who working in the church calls you to the freedom of the Sons of God.

The life of intercession is also summed up in the words of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always. Never cease praying. Render constant Thanks. Such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

So go in the power of this supernatural gift that God has given to you to live a life of intercession is to live eucharistically. Go and be Eucharistic missionary across this archdiocese. Amen.

OK.

So just to open yourselves up, we're gonna pray for just a fresh outpouring for this beautiful, you wouldn't have come here if this was not something you were seeking. So let's just ask for the more, right.

So come, Holy Spirit. Come, come with power. Come with might. We open ourselves up ever more to surrendering to this beautiful gift of intercession that you have urged in us.

You have urged in us. Come with your power and your might upon us anew. Fill us so that

each of our prayers of intercession would be in alignment with your holy will to build your Kingdom. To bring wholeness to the mystical Body of Christ.

Come Holy Spirit, Shan, that Akhil Idi and I'm gonna call Shatta Kade. I'm a..... And. We praise you, Lord. We thank you, Lord. We desire that all good things come through us understanding more deeply, this charism that you bestow upon us.

And so let us go back to defining the charisms and pray this closing prayer together. My brothers and sisters.

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.

And thanks to everybody online and sorry for the technical difficulties.

We'll get it ironed out.

And hope to see you on January 23rd for the charism of hospitality.

God bless.