

The Intercessor Mediates

“ And for this cause He is the Mediator of the New Testament ” [Heb. 9:15]. Jesus becomes the greatest of all intercessors because He literally stands between God and man and through the love of His Holy Spirit He goes to the Father in perfect self-surrendering love while at the same time He goes towards each human being in that same perfect, self-giving love. Jesus mediates man to God not so much by words said but by a presence of self-surrendering love. He is the Mediator who can reconcile the two separated parties, God, and the human race, because He belongs to both worlds. Yet, the Intercessor, by participating through the power of the Holy Spirit as intimately as possible with the sufferings of the human race, its sinfulness and alienation from God, seeks also by deep, prayerful union to abide in Jesus and through His powerful intercession to beg the Father for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Like Jesus, the modern intercessor lives in two regions: he lives totally among men, feeling every tear, every suffering and anguish of others as his own. Yet he moves through life as though he were already in the presence of the Heavenly Father. Today's intercessor acts much as a catalyst. He begins a process of internal action, of conversion of the heart. For this, he must be completely within the process. Yet he must not become immersed in the process so that he is swept into the process and becomes something different than a mediator. A catalyst is not changed into the mass around him. He is a force to change the mass. God puts His hand on the intercessor called to mediate the Word. He cleanses His chosen instrument not only in his body, but in his soul and spirit. The greatest function of mediating the Word is to mirror the Word completely in one's life as though the life of the modern prophet were to be a lived Gospel story.

Because Jesus is our High Priest, He still calls everyone baptized in the name of the Trinity to share in His one priesthood. That priesthood consists in offering up in union with Jesus' spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. Therefore, every Christian is called upon by his Baptism to mediate the priesthood of Jesus Christ before the Father in his own behalf and that of his fellow men. He can participate in this priestly mediation to the degree that he has first allowed the priestly mediation of Jesus to have its full reconciling effects to come upon him and transform him according to the priestly heart of Christ. The clear lesson from the intercessors of the Old Testament of that they first became their message. The intercessor, like St. Paul, is called into the awesome redemptive work by the merits of Jesus to reconcile the sinful world to God. Jesus has worked a work of purification in him so he can triumphantly cry out with St. Paul: **“I am crucified with Christ”!** (Gal. 2:20) Jesus shares His divine life with the modern intercessor, living in him as the vine is the life-giving source to the living branch. He is the Head, human beings in whom Jesus lives are the body. They are totally new in Him and share in His power to intercede before the Throne of the Father. We have been empowered to use His merits and His name which is the only name whereby we shall be saved. It is His mediation, His intercession that the intercessor shares as he groans in the Spirit of Jesus on behalf of a race of people that has forgotten God.

Today the world has desperate need for intercessors who mediate Jesus Christ and His intercessory power before the Father's throne on behalf of the human race. Jesus still mediates His priestly mediation through human beings in whom He can have absolute power and freedom to work as He wishes. All of man's mediation comes from Jesus Christ. There is only the High-Priest, Jesus Christ. He is all. But the modern intercessor, like St. John the Baptist, mediates Jesus Christ. He is constantly pointing out to others:

**There is the LAMB OF GOD.
It is He who takes away the sins of the world!**

He must increase. I must decrease.

All glory be to the Lamb of God!