



## *Bits and pieces*



*(continued) . .*

So, tell me more about  
“Stand[ing] in the Gap”  
for others, through  
Intercessory Prayer

### **REMEMBER . . . SAVE THE DATE!**

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, in Room 101 of the Parish Center.

This past weekend (1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Ezekiel 33:7-9), Ezekiel was appointed (by none other than the LORD) as “watchman for the house of Israel.”

And, in the Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20), “Jesus said to his disciples: “whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” and offered the additional assurance that whenever any “stand in the gap” through Intercessory Prayer in His name, “there am I in the midst of them.” *In other words . . . “standing in the gap through intercessory prayer” is never OUR doing,*

*but the Lord’s doing with and through us by the power of the Spirit. How awesome is that!!!*

The POWER of this evangelizing action comes, not through us nor because of us, but directly from the Lord, and all we have to do is give the Lord that time . . . *in prayer, focus and adoration!*

As we hear in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading this weekend (Romans 14:7-9): “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord.” . . . *and all we have to do is give the Lord that time . . . in prayer, focus and adoration! On behalf of those we are “standing in the gap for” . . . those we are “interceding for” . . .*

In an article, “How to Stand in the Gap in Prayer” by *Karen Barber* (June 26, 2013), she writes:

*“When we stand in the gap in prayer, we pray for God’s help, mercy, intervention and/or forgiveness on the behalf of individuals, groups of people or nations.”*

It begins with our “Answer [to] God’s call to intercede” with “God opening our eyes (and our hearts and minds) to a situation where prayer needs to be made to bring God’s help and intervention . . .”

Let’s go back to Ezekiel (22:30): “Thus I have searched among them for someone who would build a wall or stand in the breach before me to keep me from destroying the land; but I found no one.”

So, what does God do . . . he ultimately makes Ezekiel that watchman, to stand in

the gap of the broken parts of the wall that surrounded the city so that this vulnerable part of the wall could be guarded, protected . . . preventing the enemy from entering the city through the “gap” and destroying the city and all within it.

*“Standing in the Gap” through Intercessory Prayer is taking your place where a vulnerability exists . . . stepping in to fortify it and allow God, who gives you the strength of faith, to strengthen others as well . . . those you will hold up in prayer.*

*“Standing in the Gap” through Intercessory Prayer calls for you to be “Vigilant and Persistent”, since it is not necessarily a “one shot deal” but rather praying (with others) at regular intervals . . . as we see suggested by Isaiah (62:6-7): “Upon your walls, Jerusalem, I have stationed sentinels; By day and by night, they shall never be silent. You who are to remind the LORD, take no rest, And give him no rest, until he re-establishes Jerusalem And makes it the praise of the earth.”*

*The sentinels on this wall are those who “Stand in the Gap” throughout this “vigil” of Intercessory Prayer . . . pleading with God to “re-establish” . . . to not relent in reaching out to those you are praying for until they find their way back to the Lord . . . who will lead them back to His very altar.*

You become, in a very real way, the love that flows from God’s own heart to all that God has created, *especially those you are praying for.*

God is calling you! **GOD IS CALLING EACH OF US** to

“Stand in the Gap”  
for others, through  
Intercessory Prayer

**COME, HEAR MORE  
ABOUT THIS EXCITING  
MINISTRY ON**

**Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM,  
in Room 101 of the Parish Center. . . .**

**AND JOIN WITH A GROUP OF  
INTERCESSORS TO PRAY FOR  
THOSE WHO MAY BE DISTANT  
FROM THE LORD or AWAY FROM  
THE CHURCH**

*Sincerely yours in Christ . . . . .Fr. Mike*