

JERICO INTERCESSION PROCESSION OR MARCH

What is the Jericho Intercession Procession or March?

The Jericho Intercession Procession or March is one strategy or recipe of intercessory prayer from the Holy Spirit. It takes its name and inspiration from the Old Testament story of Joshua at Jericho (Joshua 1 to 6). As Catholics we experience this form of prayer and its fruits especially through various kinds of processions on special religious feast days. The actual Jericho March or prayer procession that God commanded Joshua to do was just one part of the larger strategy of intercession that we find in Joshua 1 to 6. This entire intercession pattern, including the prayer march around the city of Jericho had powerful spiritual and natural consequences. The obedience of Joshua to the Lord's directions opened the way for God Himself to intervene and bring forth the victory He desired at that moment of history and in the future. Today, we can pray in the Jericho Intercession Strategy in various ways and thus open the way for God to directly intervene and bring forth the victory of Jesus in our situations.

What Happens Spiritually During The Jericho Prayer?

In our lives, we are continually surrounded and bombarded by a spiritual atmosphere of the world and the flesh and the devil. As a result, it is often difficult for people to be and do good. When we pray in the Jericho procession, we are spiritually cutting off these dark clouds of evil that surround the people or places for whom we pray. At the same time, our prayer replaces the dark spiritual clouds with the Presence of Jesus and the bright Divine Cloud of all His Love and graces, mercy and blessings. We set our people and places apart unto God, so He can then work very directly in their lives. And we surround them with a Divine Shield, thus building a kind of spiritual wall or container around them in which to catch God's Glory. In this way, we are opening the window to heaven above them and their lives and their places so the Lord can pour out His Mercy and blessings and miracles upon them.

How to do the Jericho Intercession Procession

Joshua and the Children of Israel marched around the city of Jericho each day for seven days. On the last day, they marched around seven times. We can follow this pattern also when we pray. Or we can pray in variations of this prayer form. There are many ways to surround others with God's Glory in intercession.

For example, if we are praying for our parish or our home or workplace or even our city, we can walk or drive around the actual site seven times, praying a different way each time we go around. Here we remember the Lord's promise to Joshua, "Every place you put your foot I will give you." (Joshua 1:3) We can also pray the Jericho prayer "long distance", as God can surely work "long distance" through intercessory prayer. For example, if we are praying during a prayer meeting at Church or at someone's home, we can place the name or picture or some representation of whoever we are praying for on a table in the middle of our group. Then we can walk seven times around the symbol representing those we are praying for. Each time we go around, we can pray in a different way as the Holy Spirit inspires us.

How to pray in the Jericho Intercession March or Procession:

This prayer is most effective when at least two or more people *pray out loud in agreement* together.

As Catholic Christians, the Holy Spirit has given us a very rich tradition of possible ways to pray. God works in different ways in each of the ways He has taught us to pray. We try to ***follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on how to pray*** each time we go around in the Jericho Intercession Procession.

Here are some ways we can pray:

- Sing and speak ... praising the Name of Jesus and proclaiming Him up as the Lord and King in our situation ... Carry banners as a sign of Jesus' Victory.
- Call upon the Holy Spirit by speaking prayers out loud and by song.
- Pray for the Blood of Jesus to cleanse, surround, and protect all we are praying for by singing and also by praying some or all of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Profess the "Heart of our Faith" – "the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus" with our Blessed Mother – repeat the "Hail Mary" or some or all of the Rosary.
- Sing in Holy Spirit's prayer of tongues and invite all the hosts of Heaven, especially St. Michael and all our Holy Guardian Angels, to come and help us fight the spiritual war for our people and rout the control of the enemy.
- As we continue another circle of the Jericho procession, we can use a *prayer action* and cut the bondages and all that hinders or blocks our people from coming to Jesus. We can do this by moving our hands like a bush knife to "spiritually cut the spiritual bush" from around our people and places. At the same time we can also *speak* in tongues. This kind of Holy Spirit prayer is a powerful creative prayer (see Genesis 1:3) and is a powerful resurrection prayer (see John 11) So we can speak in tongues and also in between repeat the words of Jesus to Lazarus: "Come forth" in the Name of Jesus to be all that God wants you to be.
(*During this prayer is it good to sprinkle Blessed Salt and Holy Water as we go around to pray for God's protection and so all evil will flee.*)
- Perhaps the Holy Spirit will also lead us to pray other prayers during this prayer time from the Scriptures, the Liturgy of the Hours, or from the Church (eg. Consecration to the Sacred Heart, special novena prayers, and litanies, Bible prayers, or the prayer of Pope Leo XIII.)

Before you finish the final or 7th round of prayer, share what God has been saying or showing you during the prayer in case there is something He wants you to pray for more deeply. Ask the Holy Spirit then how to pray with those revelations or discernments

- We always finish for our final Jericho procession by giving Glory to God in word and song. Amen.