

Alive to God IV: BURDEN BEARING

By Pat Skees

Mother of God Prayer Meeting
June 23, 2002

It is part of Intercession

Burden bearing is a gift of intercession for the glory of God and the building of the Kingdom. It is a normal part of Christian prayer (CCC 2625). It begins with the heart of God who sees what is needed and prompts people to invite Him to act. Like Mary's instruction "Do whatever He tells you."

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **Rom 8:26-27**.

It begins to make us "other" (the breaking out of self centered thinking and living)

It is a gift if intercessory prayer for specific brothers and sisters, so that His purposes for their lives can be fulfilled. (Elena Kraut's understanding and then sharing His Divine Mercy)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" **John 13:34** "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." **John 15:12-13**

We become part of the Body of Jesus Christ

It is one way that the Lord invites us to share in His ministry of revealing hearts and sharing the burdens of His Body. It is a call to help others to carry their burdens and therefore to share in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Our self-centered relation to God matures into a corporate sense of family.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." **Matt 11: 28-30** "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **John 16:20-21** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. **Matt 28:19-20a**

We Meet Jesus in a new way

We discover the mind of Jesus more profoundly as we begin to realize that He is prompting us, moving us to see feel and understand about a brother or sister from His perspective (seeing those at work as needy for comfort, love, touch rather than just seeing someone who invades my life, affects my performance, bugs or teases me)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. **2 Cor 1:3-7**

Jesus introduces us to the Father

Jesus shows us how much His father wants to come and love us, play with us, and share His view of His son's body today. (as I am healed I have a closeness to the Father I never had with my own father or anyone else).

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **John 14:21, 23**