

Dear brothers & sisters!

During the last days of preparation for Lent, I deeply sensed the LORD calling that we in the AHC start a joint prayer & fasting for this Lenten season.

In the Bible, especially in the *Tanach*, we see so many testimonies of the importance of the People of God praying and fasting together, not only as an act of repentance, but also for bringing about breakthroughs and God's interventions to change, humanly speaking, impossible situations. We see this for instance in the book of Esther, when Esther as the Jewish Queen of Persia asks all of her people to pray and fast together for their redemption through her courageous speaking up before the mighty king. I don't believe it is a coincidence that soon we also celebrate Purim, preceded by *Ta'anit Esther*, a day of fasting before the joyful celebration.

Real and lasting breakthroughs in the history of Israel and the Church were so often prepared and brought about by a move of intentional and corporate praying & fasting.

I am convinced that, especially for our challenging yet so important a mission toward the restoration of the Jewish part of the Church, praying and fasting is necessary. We are dealing here with the deepest wound of the unity of God's People, and the longest and probably hardest stronghold of the enemy, i.e., that which hinders the fullness of God's plan of salvation to be accomplished in and through His reconciled and unified bridal Church of Jew & Gentile.

Through prayer and fasting, alongside Moshe on Har Sinai and our Messiah Yeshua for 40 days in the desert, divine power and strategies shall be set free to accomplish the mission the LORD has entrusted to us.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly invite you to join together in prayer and fasting, suggesting the following:

I. PRAYER

1. *Shema Yisrael* (& blowing the Shofar if possible)
2. Prayer for the mission of the AHC – see below
3. Our Father/*Avinu Shebashamayim*
4. Hail Mary/*Shalom lach Miryam*
5. Glory be .../ *Kavod leAv*

(The following prayer was composed by Florian David Vorisek at the request of David Moss, President of the AHC. It might eventually need some modifications but hopefully serves its purpose for this season.

We are starting this Lenten Prayer & Fasting initiative for the intentions of the AHC on the 1st Sunday of Lent, February 26th until Easter Sunday, April 9th 2023. If during this season you receive words from the LORD or simply inspirations/ideas for the mission of the AHC, please write them down and send them to Florian David Vorisek (florian.vorisek@gmx.at) who will collect them and eventually share them with the leadership of the AHC.)

Prayer for the Mission of the AHC

Avinu shebashamayim (Our Father in Heaven), God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!

We praise you and thank you for sending our Messiah Yeshua who came to seek and gather the lost sheep of His People Israel as well as the lost sheep of the Nations to redeem them by His death and resurrection, making them one, holy people by the power of the *Ruach Hakodesh* (*Holy Spirit*). We confess that the dividing wall, which by the power of Yeshua's death on the cross had been destroyed (Eph 2:14), was again erected, and thus enmity between Your People Israel and the Church of the Nations wounded the unity of Your people deeply.

Therefore we beseech Thee, faithful Guardian of the Covenant (*Shomer Habrit*):

1. Remove and destroy the anti-Jewish veils and walls of supersessionism that are blinding many of our beloved brothers and sisters in the Church so that they may see and support Jewish-Catholic communal life within the Church. We pray especially for Church authorities and all who teach and preach – in order to end the destructive regime of assimilation and loss of the full vitality and power of the Gospel that is wounding deeply both the Jewish people and the Church.
2. We pray for Your timing and strategies to be set free and revealed towards the establishment of a corporate Jewish Presence and authentic Jewish communal life within the Catholic Church to preserve the richness and the blessings of the heritage of Your People Israel.
3. Reach out to all our baptized Jewish brothers and sisters and awaken their hearts by the power of your Spirit to the importance of their Jewish identity for the life of the Church. Make them, and make us, more deeply aware of our unique calling to be a corporate living witness of Yeshua to both Israel and the Church, by discovering and embracing Jewish life in the Light of our Messiah.

Guide us by your wisdom and give us courage to create authentic Jewish-Catholic life and spirituality that we can also transmit to the next generation. Show us new and fruitful ways of reaching out to our Jewish-Catholic brothers and sisters, connecting with one another and forming true communion.

4. Bless our fellowship and collaboration with our Jewish brothers and sisters in other parts of the Body of Messiah, and guide us in our common mission towards reconciliation and the restoration of the Jewish part of the Church towards the unity of Your People. Help us repent from prideful attitudes and bitterness towards one another, and remove every obstacle that is hindering the power of Your Kingdom to come. Strengthen those of us who suffer under persecution by members of the Church or of Israel and show us ways to support them. May we behold together the fullness of the power of the Gospel to be restored by the love between Jews and Gentiles in your Body for the final harvest to be unleashed, hastening the day when all Israel will proclaim

“Baruch haba b’Shem ADONAI!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD!”

in preparation for the Coming of Messiah Yeshua in glory.

We ask this in the Name of Yeshua through the mighty intercession of Miryam Bat Israel (Mary, Daughter of Israel), Josef Ben David (St. Joseph, Son of David) and Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross). Amen!

II. FASTING

Let us join our prayer with fasting and acts of loving kindness (*gemilut chasadim*), especially on each Friday of Lent, uniting these with the redemptive work of Yeshua. For example, if we usually skip one or two meals on Friday, we could instead spend this time in Adoration of the Holy Eucharist, praying and meditating on Holy Scripture, the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Holy Rosary.

May the Good Shepherd King, our Messiah Yeshua, gather the dispersed sheep of Israel and bring them Home to the fullness of their identity and calling in Messiah Yeshua, to be a living bridge and instrument of reconciliation *Al Kiddush Hashem*, for the sanctification of God's Holy Name!

Your brother,
Florian David