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This Month's Silent Intentions

- May st Joseph take our families under his particular protection,
- may he help youngsters to maintain purity
- and protect them from decline of faith.

My beloved, how are you doing? In my mind I wander from one person to the other hoping that each of you may be able to cope with everyday life, however big unpleasant events and struggles may be. Let us not be engaged in so many trivialities which take our minds off the essence and only ruin our nervous system. Rather let us give everything to st Joseph, while praying: „Look after us, guide us.“ In our fears let us not forget that we are all consecrated in a special way to st Joseph.

With kind regards, a spiritual hug and the blessing of st Joseph I say goodbye again, your

Paula

Now let me give you the e-mail and internet address of the Lay Community of St Joseph:

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Lay Community of St Joseph

Devotion of St Joseph

It began to flourish in the late Middle Ages. In the 14th century cardinal Pierre d'Ailly was the first to write a theological treatise on this devotion and his pupil Gerson, like him chancellor of the University of Paris, listed in strictly theological works the reasons why Joseph is to be venerated by the faithful. Later, the Franciscan Bernardino of Siena, the great fifteenth-century preacher, the Dominican Isidore de Isolani in the 16th century and, at the same time, perhaps even to a greater extent, the great mystic Teresa of Ávila and after them st Francis de Sales contributed to spread this devotion among the people through their teachings, writings and examples.

In 1481 Pope Sixtus IV introduced the feast of st Joseph in the breviary and the Roman Missal. In 1621 Gregor XV raised it to the status of a Holy Day of Obligation for the entire Church. In 1670 Clement X raised the status of the feast. In 1714 Clement XI added proper Mass Rites and Divine Office and Benedict XIII inserted the name of the Saint in the Litany of the Saints.

In 1847 Pius IX extended the feast of st Joseph as Patron Saint, which was till then only permitted to certain religious orders and dioceses, to the entire Church. In reply to countless petitions, which reached him from the whole Christian world, he solemnly proclaimed st Joseph Protector of the universal Church on 8 December 1870.

In his circular "Quantum pluribus" of 15 August 1889, Leo XIII explained the reasons and special motives why Joseph has been called as Protector of the Church. The patronage entrusted to him is justified on account of the tasks he once performed in the close circle of Nazareth with JESUS and Mary. Because he once, by the will of GOD, provided for the Holy Family and looked after the SON of GOD and His mother, in whom the whole Church was germinally present, he is now to perpetuate the mission in Heaven, which he accomplished for the young Church.

St Joseph Called the Priest

In the parish church of st Leonard in Gnesau (Carinthia), there is a lantern at the foot of the statue of st Joseph, which is used to accompany the Blessed Sacrament as a Viaticum to the sick. The parish priest's housekeeper Josephine Sonnleitner, who died in 1977, told the following true story about this lantern to the then parish priest:

During the first years after his appointment, the parish priest Messinger who died in 1966 was called by doorbell's ringing by a man to administer the Last Rites at about two o'clock in the morning. The parish priest was much surprised when the messenger while opening the Tabernacle said the Confiteor in perfect Latin because he considered him to be a farm labourer. The messenger led the way with the lantern. He led the parish priest to the next village, then towards the mountain forest. After the messenger had walked past the last farm, the parish priest told him that there was nothing but forest up there. The messenger told him to just keep going. The parish priest became a little suspicious but followed nevertheless. When the parish priest objected a second time that there did not live anybody up there, the messenger is reported to have said: „Yes, certainly, it is all right indeed.“ Both went on but the parish priest felt awkward about the whole thing.

Suddenly he saw the lantern in front of him on the road but the messenger had disappeared. The parish priest called for him sev-

eral times – no answer, not a sound was to be heard. Then the parish priest noticed that he was standing next to a hay hut. Unable to make up his mind he stood there for a while. Then he heard some moaning coming from the hut. He took heart, opened the door and lit the dark interior with the lantern. Then he saw lying on the hay an old beggar, who was obviously seriously ill. When he saw the priest with the lantern in his hand, he said with difficulty: „Reverend, how did you get here? All my life I have prayed to st Joseph that he may not let me part from this world without the Last Sacraments. Now I thought that I would nevertheless have to die without a priest. And now you are here!“ Deeply moved the parish priest prepared the poor man for his death and stayed with him until he died at daybreak.

Parish priest Messinger told this story to his housekeeper yet ordered her not to tell anyone as long as he was still alive. And she kept this promise. It was not until the last year of her life that she talked about it with the present parish priest and the religious instruction teacher. After the old parish priest's housekeeper had died, the parish priest took the lantern and had it placed at the statue of st Joseph. The lights that now burn here are meant to bear witness to this supernatural event and remind the people that the Saints are their friends in Heaven, to whom they can pray with confidence.

Exerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph"
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On 17 October Brother André will be canonized in Rome. Thanks to him the greatest Joseph Shrine has been built in Montreal (Canada). On this feast day he will have special privileges before GOD's throne and with st Joseph. Take your intentions and worries to him.

