



During the course of the novena, her illness grew worse. On 17 March, she suffered terrible pains. On the 18th, she felt some relief. Then on 19 March she had the joy of receiving Holy Communion. A few minutes afterwards, she got up all of a sudden and knelt in front of an image of st Joseph which was on a table a few steps away. Her cure was as complete as it was instantaneous. All the symptoms disappeared, all without exception, and her weakened stomach could retain and digest the food that they gave her. All thanks to st Joseph!

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### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- That our Community may grow.
- That we willingly accept all trials from GOD's Hand without complaining and moaning.
- We will impart the merits to the dying.

I would like to give to all of you my most heartfelt greetings and the blessing of st Joseph.

Always remaining with you in my thoughts, your

*Sister Paula*



February 2011

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Head of the Holy Family

Joseph was a powerful and silent light in Nazareth. Hardly anyone noticed although it was shining right up to Heaven. He was a watchful father – a watchful protector of his holy spouse, the Mother of GOD – a watchful father and protector of the SON of GOD and always full of righteousness, wisdom, fortitude and faithfulness, full of humility, gentleness, patience and love and ready for anything.

Because of his high virtue he found grace in the eyes of GOD to become the guardian, the foster and nursing father of the divine SON – most pure bridegroom of the Daughter, Mother and Bride of GOD. Not through the flesh but through GOD's will has he become the head of the Holy Family. Mighty and mysterious beyond all telling! – Small wonder that his power extends over everything. He knows how to accomplish anything with JESUS and Mary. They just melt away at his loving glance.

We will also not forget to give thanks for such incomprehensible things because this is even more important than begging and pleading. And if we are asking for something, let us say thanks at the same time as if it had already been granted to us.

## A Man of Silence and Prayer

Joseph is a man of few words, who lives intensely, though, and: he is a great man of prayer. Silence and prayer belong together. For silence is the "Sanctuary of Prayer". The silence of st Joseph has nothing to do with inactivity or clumsiness but it is the silence before GOD and before His mysterious dispensations.

With Joseph activity and contemplation are ideally linked and united. Therefore, he is the model to all inward people. As there are no Scriptural records testifying to st Joseph's own words, it is for this very reason that they reveal to us something very fundamental: the silence of st Joseph is actually the awe-stricken silence before the greatness of the divine dispensations; it is the silence before the incomprehensible. It is incomprehensible that shelter should be denied to the long awaited Redeemer, that He be born in a stable, that He should run away from Herod, that He should be a sign of contradiction, that He withdraws from His parents in the Temple ... Joseph is not silent resigning himself to the dispensation of Providence but he is silent in awe of GOD's mystery.

## Not a Word of Doubt

No contradiction is coming out of his mouth when the Angel tells him to take Mary and the Child to himself, to flee to Egypt with the Child and His Mother and eventually to return to his homeland. While everyone else would at least have answered with another question, with Joseph there is only silent obedience.

Just as he had emerged out of his silence, in the same way he withdraws into it again. Nothing is reported about his death. It suffices to know that he lives closest to JESUS and Mary. Maybe he is destined to teach us again, especially in these days of noisy advertising, of talking, of loud and often far too many words: that only he can pray who is also able to be silent.

(John Paul II, Speech of 19 March 1992)

## Thanks Be to St Joseph

Philomena, a girl of nineteen, had been confined to bed since 5 September with a nervous disorder. Pain and distress had sapped her strength to the point where any kind of movement had become unbearable and her stomach could not tolerate so much as a teaspoonful of broth. She had no alternative but to turn to GOD. All those who visited the sick girl prayed that the LORD would take pity on one who suffered so much and reward her resignation by putting an end to her martyrdom, summoning her young soul to the unending joys of Heaven.

Such was her sorry state when, on 28 February, Philomena received a letter from a nun, her former superior, exhorting her not to lose courage and to begin a novena to st Joseph on the tenth day of the following month, so as to finish it on the feast day of the great patriarch. The confidence of the superior was so strong that the letter ended with these words: „My hope is so great that I dare say: Regards, see you on the 19th; I hope that, GOD willing, you will visit me: st Joseph is the patron of our house.“ Her confidence was shared by the sick girl who declared with conviction that she would be cured on the 19th.

