



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us not look down upon the people around us.
- Let us beware of judging someone hastily and carelessly.
- Let us fight all negative thoughts about our fellow human beings with the help of st Joseph (saying quick prayers straightaway will help).

My beloved in the "Lay Community of St Joseph" – I wonder how you are doing. Can the help of st Joseph not be felt especially in pretty run-of-the-mill and everyday things – is it not often a very prompt and striking help in great matters? – I have just heard from several people how quickly and strikingly st Joseph has helped.

Let us also ask st Joseph to reveal GOD's will to us. – "Thank You, holy father Joseph!"

3 May is the long awaited day. I will fly to Montreal with Mother Pia – and visit the greatest Shrine of st Joseph, the holy place where blessed brother André lived and worked. My mind has anticipated the journey already. I take you all with me!

With kindest regards and the blessing of st Joseph, I remain with you,

*Brother Paula*



April 2011

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Joseph, a Working Man

Among all working people on earth, Joseph was the one and only one at whose workplace JESUS CHRIST turned up every day. The carpenter's trade, this was the actual environment in which the Holy Family lived. It was Joseph of Nazareth who taught the SON of GOD his trade. It is thanks to him that CHRIST Himself belonged to the world of labour and bore witness to its dignity before GOD's eyes. In this way labour has been incorporated in the mystery of the Incarnation and has become an instrument of salvation.

Through st Joseph the virtue of diligence has been renewed and everyday life has been sanctified. St Joseph is the model of the humble and proof that it does not take great deeds but only human character and plainness in general, though true virtues are necessary.

(From the magazine "Saint Joseph" of John Paul II)

## Joseph, the Family Man

Joseph was the divinely ordained head of the Holy Family. He was responsible for them. He guided them and represented them outwardly – hiding the great mystery with his profound, holy silence. Mary and JESUS respected, obeyed and loved Joseph as it should be in every family. In the heavenly order JESUS and Mary surely stood above Joseph, and yet JESUS and His Mother wanted to maintain the legal system. To them, Joseph was the head, so willed by GOD. Joseph was treated and welcomed by his loved ones with great respect as befits the representative of the heavenly FATHER. Joseph was well aware of his responsibility towards GOD and humanity. From GOD's hands he accepted Mother and Child and to Him he will be answerable, He is the one whom he wants to please. He did not have his own convenience in mind but only his loved ones. Joseph only asked them to do what he did himself. He was in everything an appealing and inspiring example. Despite all simplicity, modesty and all the hardships, a peaceful, happy and merry family life flourished in Nazareth.

There is nobody on earth to whom Joseph could not be held up as an excellent example and a mighty intercessor.

Joseph and Mary – were they able, in their modest lives, to understand the great dignity of being the parents of the SON of GOD? They could not but marvel at their fate and the mystery hidden in their marriage.

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## A Worker of the Last Hour

Not so long ago an unhappy wretch, victim of his own fun-loving lifestyle and in dreadful poverty, was at the point of death. Charitable Christians, while trying to better his sad situation, had failed to convince him to accept any spiritual help. In vain was he shown the everlasting misery towards which he was heading. His only response was a contemptuous sneer, truly diabolical.

It was March, st Joseph's month, and someone was inspired to turn to the great patriarch. On the 19th, prayers were intensified and st Joseph was reminded that st Theresa of Avila maintained that no one ever prayed to him in vain, especially on his feast day.

Oh, the wonderful power of prayer! That blessed day, the patient asked for spiritual help and requested someone to bring the priest he had slighted the most. He gathered what little strength he had left and made a full confession of his whole life with great contrition. A few hours later would have been too late. The holy nursing father of JESUS was well aware of that! Before the end of the feast day of the glorious Spouse of Mary, this poor privileged penitent appeared before GOD, who in His infinite goodness wills to reward well the workers who come at the last hour. Glory and thanks to st Joseph!

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