



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us do our utmost to hold our tongues this month – this instrument which can wreak so much havoc – thoughtlessly rattling on so much and hurting people.
- Let us willingly go into battle for GOD, but let us leave the reward to the sinners for their salvation.

Seven “Our Fathers” and “Hail Marys” for nine days to the pleasure of st Joseph, according to his wish, can be performed as a novena. Would it not be a good idea if we, our whole Community, everyone at his place, could pray this novena every year before the anniversary of the foundation? That would be a great power and we would, for once, not be begging. What do you say?

Let us not forget: the shortest martyrdom is to follow GOD's will everywhere and in everything. – May st Joseph help us all to always recognize this holy will. For this was what he lived and strived for: to do the will of GOD. How often did he go to Mary greatly concerned about failing to recognize the will of GOD in every circumstance, and to ask her to pray for him. – We, too, will receive the grace of knowledge daily, if we stay with st Joseph – in life and in death.

With kindest regards and with the blessing of st Joseph I say good-bye again, your

*Brother Paula*

“The Lay Community of St Joseph” has now appeared in the internet and can be visited at [www.laiengemeinschaft-des-hl-josef.com](http://www.laiengemeinschaft-des-hl-josef.com).



June 2011

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### St Joseph, Our Model in Time of Trial

O, what a great Saint is the glorious st Joseph! He is not only a Patriarch, but the prince of all Patriarchs; he is not simply a Confessor, but even more, for his life contained the generosity of the Martyrs and of all the other Saints with the exception of Mary.

Among the virtues which were found to an eminent degree in st Joseph are courage, perseverance, constancy and strength. Now there is a great difference between constancy and perseverance, between strength and courage. We call constant or steadfast the man who holds firm during the fight, ready to suffer the enemy's attacks without dismay or loss of heart; perseverance is mainly concerned with a kind of inner weariness which comes when our troubles are long-drawn-out and which is one of the most dangerous enemies we meet. Thus, perseverance allows a man to scorn that enemy in such a way that he triumphs by his unbroken conformity and submission to GOD's will.

Strength enables a man effectively to resist his enemy's attacks; courage is the virtue which not only keeps him

ready for battle or resistance in due time, but also encourages him to attack first, when the enemy is off guard.

Thus our glorious st Joseph was blessed with all these virtues and he practised them wondrously well. As regards his constancy, how greatly it shone forth, did it not, when his Spouse Mary was with Child without understanding how such a thing could happen? My GOD, what distress, what trouble and what grief he endured! Nevertheless, he did not complain once; he was neither harsh nor unkind towards his wife; he did not mistreat her for remaining just as gentle and respectful as before. But to what courage and strength does not the victory bear witness which he won over the two greatest enemies of man, the devil and the world, by that perfect humility which, as we have seen, he practised throughout his life.

As for perseverance, the contrary of lassitude, that inner enemy which invades us in the long succession of miseries, humiliations, hardships and misfortunes, or simply the various happenings of our lives, how greatly was this saint tested by GOD and by men as well! (St Francis de Sales)

Excerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph"  
Published by Traditions Monastiques (F)

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## A Guide amidst the Waves

Two Franciscan Fathers were sailing off the coast of Flanders when a violent storm sprang up sinking their ship with its three hundred passengers. The two friars clung to a piece of wood from the ship and thus kept afloat on the waves. In that terrible situation they entrusted themselves to st Joseph and remained for three days between life and death.

At last, on the third day, the Saint came to their assistance. He appeared to them in the form of a young man full of grace and majesty, standing on the plank they clung to. He greeted them in a manner so friendly that it filled their hearts with indescribable consolation and imparted miraculous strength to their limbs, after which, acting as pilot, he guided them through the waters and brought them ashore. „I am Joseph“, he said. „If you wish to please me, recite the ‘Our Father’ and the ‘Hail Mary’ seven times, in memory of the seven sorrows I experienced when living on earth in the company of JESUS and Mary“.

Having said this, he disappeared, leaving the two friars full of joy and gratitude.

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