



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- That st Joseph may help us to fulfil the duties of our station.
- That we may take pleasure in fulfilling them.
- That in doing so we may cheer up those around us, especially our family.

At the foundation of the Lay Community I expressed my wish that the members might gather together once a year for an interchange of thoughts. Now this undertaking seems impossible. The members live in different countries far apart from each other. Many of them come to Rehetobel once or twice a year at a great feast together with many other faithful. Place and time are not available on such days. I will wait. Sometime place, time and accommodation will arise.

I would like to give each one of you my most heartfelt regards. I remain united with you in my thoughts, and may the blessing of st Joseph accompany you,

Sister Paula



September 2011

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Earthly Trinity

It is not in the power of mortal tongue to express the immense honour to which our Saint was elevated when she who appeared in the world like dawn breaking was given to him as spouse, she whose ever-increasing virtues grew into a rich dowry which she brought to Joseph, her husband. The chosen virgin wanted no other provision in the marriage agreement except that her spouse be altogether like her, both in chastity and in purity of soul; and if the agreement was in a sense the work of the HOLY SPIRIT Himself, who can doubt that the Blessed Virgin's wish was granted and that Joseph was enriched with gifts, qualities and virtues similar to those of Mary? „GOD,“ says st Bernardine of Siena, „could only unite to the soul of so great a virgin, one whose virtues were so like hers.“

The most beautiful privilege of st Joseph, as spouse of Mary, is that he is considered and honoured as the head of the Holy Family, which one author did not hesitate to call the earthly Trinity. Repeating roughly the pious Gerson, I would like to be eloquent enough to describe for you this wonderful trinity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

JESUS, Mary and Joseph were three. Nevertheless, they seem to be only one – one in a unity so marvellous, a unity which of three made only one and nevertheless left them in the appearance of three persons.

Pay, therefore, frequent honour to that trinity, which was visible for us on earth: JESUS, Mary and Joseph! – Engrave in your hearts in letters of gold those three heavenly names, utter them often, write them everywhere: JESUS, Mary, Joseph! Repeat them several times a day, those sacred names, and may they still be on your lips when you draw your last breath. (st Leonhard of Port-Maurice)

Excerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph"
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Everything Is Possible – It Is Faith that Counts

One person writes: „Recently st Joseph has been a great help to me. At the death of our mother arose an ill-fated, divisive conflict of interests. One of my sisters was not only reviled, but her good name was also slandered. After a violent argument they broke up. They could not possibly be reconciled. All attempts to clear up things remained without effect.

I turned to st Joseph with a broken heart. I said: ‚You are the advocate in desperate situations. If you will hear my prayer I promise you to visit your statue in my garden for one whole year and to make you known.’

Joseph kept me waiting. Nonetheless I did not cease to call on him. I wanted to make one last effort. I wrote to my sister and

her husband and I quoted the words of JESUS about depriving someone of his good name and the love of the enemy. Then I put down the letter at the feet of st Joseph asking him to bless it and to melt the frozen hearts.

My sister and her husband were defeated. They contacted the person whom they had accused of underhand dealings.”

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St Francis of Sales says: „Be convinced that the glorious st Joseph can achieve much in Heaven ...”

In what fortunate position we are indeed, being dedicated to st Joseph – being sure of his protection, as long as we endeavour to do GOD’s will. What a mighty intercessor people have or would have if they went to him with all their great and small problems. Neither his immaculate spouse nor the SAVIOUR refuses to grant him anything. He helps us in all matters provided it furthers our salvation, but most rapidly if we ask him for progress in all virtues – for salvation of the souls of the dying round the clock. He will do it if only we have faith!

St Joseph wants to encourage us in those virtues which he possessed in such a high degree: in the lily-like purity of the body and the soul, in humility, steadfastness, kindness, in strength and stability and in absolute holy silence. If we persistently practise these virtues, they will allow us to defeat the enemy. In eternal life we will be allowed to enjoy the reward which is being prepared for those who during their lives have followed the example of st Joseph – the infinitely wonderful and everlasting blessedness.