



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us entrust to st Joseph all the worries of our families.
- That parents talk about GOD to their children.
- That parents show their children the beauties of nature at the same time referring to the wonderful Creator.

My beloved, let us endeavour once again to strive for virtues. Let us practise the virtue of purity – also avoid dangerous occasions, bad performances, shall we? I wish you all a lot of strength, much courage to overcome yourselves. With the blessing of st Joseph, reaching out to you every day, and in a joint effort we will succeed.

The thoughtful Advent season draws near – passing so quickly. Let us put it to good use and prepare for our beloved GOD a really warm and clean little manger. I wish everyone a cheerful heart in anticipation of this wonderful event!

United with kind regards,

Sister Paula



November 2011

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Noble Joseph

The noble offspring of David, as the litanies to his honour call him, unites without doubt all virtues which his ancestors had made their own. He possessed the faith of Abraham in an excellent way, Isaac's open-heartedness, Jacob's patience with the chastity of Joseph of Egypt, King David's spirit of piety, Ezekiel's resignation to GOD's will, Josiah's burning zeal. Destined to become the spouse of a virgin, he received a certain immunity of the soul against any stirrings of passion. Destined to hide the divine mysteries, he received a spirit of silence, of prayerfulness, of humility, which no mortal being can ever attain to.

We would like to quote the wonderful words of st Bernard of Siena, who said: „Joseph is without any stain in his virginity, very profound in his humility, ardent in his love of GOD and neighbour, very advanced in his contemplation.“ One last remark on his nature: Joseph was free from all temptations of worldly goods. He enjoyed an intimate and uninterrupted contemplation. Is it, therefore, bold to think that he knew GOD's nearness, as was the case with his ancestors, as Abraham experienced under the

oaks of Mamre, as Jacob experienced sleeping on a stone of Bethel and Moses with the burning bush on Mount Horeb?

In Abraham we admire a greatness of soul, able to embrace an immeasurable offspring. It says in Holy Scripture that GOD made Salomon a heart as large as the shores of the sea in order to put the treasures of divine wisdom into it. But Joseph's soul was created incomparably larger and deeper by the HOLY SPIRIT because GOD wanted to allow Mary, the perfect creature, and JESUS, the incarnate Word, to shine forth in it in all their glory. Therefore, we do not want to compare his soul with the hollows of the seas, but with the boundless heavenly vault. His soul, who possessed something of the cheerfulness and even of the solemnity of the vast heavenly expanses, was of an exquisite tenderness and she flourished in the purest, ardent love of GOD. His love rose undividedly to GOD and he was prepared to piously accept the objectives GOD showed him for his expressions of affection. (Abbot Bernard Maréchaux)

Excerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph"
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Saint Joseph, Faithful Son of David

Most beloved spouse of Mary,
saint Joseph, faithful son of David,
You foster father of our LORD,
pray for us at GOD's throne!

You humbly hear GOD's calling
reaching You through the Angel.
You do not doubt, believe in the Child
Your spouse conceived from the Spirit.

You take Mary home,
must soon go to Bethlehem.
With the Child and His Mother
must flee to Egypt.

You return to Nazareth
and are just in all Your doings,
supporting JESUS. At your death
GOD will rest Your soul.

Saint Joseph, be our Patron Saint!
Let Your example show us the road!
Today please ask for GOD's grace
that we may travel heavenwards with joy!

(Fr. Ernst Vogt)

