



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- The daily intentions, all efforts and worries we carry out with this in mind: that the Mother of GOD may be able to do what she wants with it – according to her wishes.

The month of May is first of all dedicated to the Mother of GOD. The crowning moment is the great feast of “Mary Empress”. All of you, young and old: welcome!

The blessing of st Joseph go with you every day!

With kind regards I remain, your

Paula



May 2012

Lay Community of St Joseph

Day or Night

It is interesting to ponder over which is more impressive, the day or the night. The day is magnificent, but the night is so solemn! The day enlightens the earth for us, while night unveils the sky. These thoughts come to us as we think of st Joseph.

We are struck by the obscurity, in a figurative sense, which surrounds this incomparable Saint. We know many detailed facts and stories about earthly celebrities awarded with titles, but none about st Joseph. All we have are a few lines about him in the Gospel, but not a single quote from himself; that is all.

As far as the world is concerned, his life is as obscure as night itself: deep, majestic, and spiritually moving. So much so that although he is hidden, in the end we find his life greater, more beautiful and far more appealing than the lives of others which are bathed in light.

The spiritual depth hidden behind this shadowy gem grows clearer as one fathoms it, and eventually the soul feels itself standing before a great abyss. Without knowing

it, the soul is lifted above the ordinary realm of our thoughts into air which is purer, more fragrant, as if a breeze blew gently from our heavenly home. We are at peace, and dwell close to God.

The impression we receive when we approach st Joseph is the same as that which we encounter when entering a shrine. A shrine is peaceful, silent, with some kind of twilight which recollects our spirit. Its atmosphere is sober, profound, and gentle; it inspires respect and it humbles, making one forget the world in a foretaste of Heaven. Whichever shrine it is, it is a house of God. I doubt that one can think of st Joseph without experiencing some of these feelings. St Joseph is, in his being, the surrounding and the setting for the greatest of all mysteries: that of God made man in the womb of a Virgin.

Liturgical rubrics stipulate that the Holy Eucharist be kept in our tabernacles, in a gold or silver ciborium, and that this be covered with a gold, silver or silk veil. In the mystery of the Incarnation, the Sacred Host is Jesus, the ciborium is Mary, the veil is st Joseph. Just as the ciborium is only there for the Host, so the veil is only there for the Host and the ciborium. As Mary exists and lives only for Jesus, Joseph exists and lives only for Jesus and Mary. (Bishop Gay)

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

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St Joseph's Censorship

Dear Reverend Father!

Would you be so kind as to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving in honour of st Joseph?

It is because of him that my eldest son, John, was able to keep his job which was threatened by powerful adversaries. John was in charge of book sales in a large store and, as he refused to sell any obscene or occult books or any other reprehensible literature, they gave him a choice: no "censorship" or no job. So we prayed to st Joseph. O, how much!

The result was that, the next day, the people in question offered their sincere apologies to John and asked him to stay on at his job! It is quite simply miraculous when one considers the hopelessness of the situation.

Yours faithfully ...

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

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