



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- That we may comply with Mary's call in Fatima and pray for peace. – Mary's most powerful weapon is the Rosary!

All those entrusted to me, please join me in praying the following prayer:

„As spiritual mother of the Lay Community and together with all those in my charge, I pray You, saint Joseph: act with your great power on us, with us and through us to Your delight, to Mary's triumph and to GOD's delight!“

I repeatedly hear that our members do not know that I am allowed to give them the blessing of st Joseph. Especially for this purpose I received the consecration of my right hand. This blessing reaches everyone in the morning and in the evening. When people visit me, they can also ask for it. I am allowed to impart this blessing to mankind, to the departed, to the needy, to all those seeking help and to my family. It is incomprehensible to me and I feel unworthy, yet I do it in obedience. After all, it is st Joseph who has to do it.

In July and August it is mainly the holiday period. I wish everyone a good rest and many lasting joys!

*Sister Paula*



July 2012

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Love St Joseph

There are so many reasons for venerating st Joseph and learning from his life: He was strong in faith ... Through hard work he supported his family, JESUS and Mary ... He guarded the purity of Mary, whom GOD had entrusted to him as his spouse; he venerated – loved – the free government of GOD, who had not only chosen the most blessed Virgin as His mother, but had also chosen him as spouse of Mary.

Love st Joseph! Love him with all your heart, for he is – together with JESUS – the one who loved Mary most and also the one who, apart from Mary, had the closest intimacy with GOD.

After the most pure Virgin Mary, it was Joseph who loved GOD most. He deserves your love. Besides, being on good terms with him is very helpful to you because he is a master of inner life and he is in a position to achieve a lot with GOD and the Mother of GOD.

Yes, Josef and Mary have so perfectly oriented their lives towards the FATHER in Heaven that it has pleased

Him to entrust His SON to their care – to give Him an earthly home with them. To the divine SON both were Heaven on earth. –

## When It Is Worth Feeling Bad

A man of forty-seven years, consumed by greed, became ill with measles. He sought a place among the poor of a hospital. The religious Sister in charge of his room soon approached him and asked whether he was a good Christian. „Little does it matter,“ he responded rather rudely, „provided that I am an honest man.“ – „But being honest is not enough for getting into Heaven.“ – „I attend Mass on Sundays.“ – „There is still more needed. A good Christian has other duties.“

The sick man, annoyed by this conversation, turned towards the wall and remained silent. The Sister withdrew, and since nothing indicated a serious condition, she made up her mind to await a better opportunity. She even postponed giving him a medal of st Joseph, although the thought occurred to her several times.

Eventually, the condition of the man worsened as the fever increased and the illness spread to his chest. The chaplain arrived and tried to bring this poor man to Christian repentance. The unfortunate responded to his charitable attempts only with vulgarities and spat out all sorts of abuses against the priest. The Sister in charge of the men’s section entrusted this sinner to st Joseph, and succeeded, although with difficulty, in placing the Saint’s medal around his neck. Soon the dying man, glad to have this pious object, asked to keep

it for good, and even to carry it away if he should one day leave the hospital.

From this time on a transformation took place within him. Respectful manners replaced the boorishness which had made him inaccessible, and when once more spoken to about confession, he did not resist but confessed most sincerely.

„Oh, my good Sister,“ he said to the nun caring for him after his talk with the chaplain, „how happy I am! This time I confessed all my sins and I really felt very bad, it’s true, but I feel such joy that it was worth it. How I regret having done my duty so badly in the past! If I recover with st Joseph’s protection, I shall live very differently.“

The illness progressed rapidly. It was deemed essential to give him Extreme Unction, which he received in the most consoling dispositions. From then until the end of his life he strengthened spiritually those around him with his truly Christian attitude. „To die having done so much ill and so little good, how terrible it is!“ he remarked.

Half an hour before giving up his soul to God he was still totally conscious, and he repeated ever so touchingly: „My God, be merciful to me! Holy Mary, pray for me, a poor sinner! Saint Joseph, help me to die well!“

He expired without agony. We firmly hope that Heaven has taken his contrition into account.