



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us think of the poor we want to comfort, of the sick whose suffering we see, of the ones who are led astray, eagerly desiring that they may return to the right path. We pray for all of them with st Joseph.

Just talk to st Joseph as you would to your closest friend. You do not have to be educated to please him. Your heart just has to be in the right place – in the place where GOD wants it to be. Give him the name of the person, for whom you have a wish, and tell him what you want him to do. Do not hesitate to ask much. Speak modestly, briefly and sincerely, and then have faith.

With kindest regards and the blessing of st Joseph, I remain with you, your

Sister Paula



September 2012

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Wonderful Purity of st Joseph

Mary belongs to God; she is the golden ladder on which God wants to come down to men and to draw them to himself. But consider this extraordinary fact! Although the Virgin is the Beloved One God took for himself and the wedding chamber in whom the Son chose to unite himself to his humanity, the Lord saw fit that she should become the spouse of a mortal man, that man being st Joseph.

Was it in God's plan to give a mortal man some kind of lawful rights over this blessed creature, this consecrated Virgin? It was indeed – and we are dumbfounded by this act of divine will.

Who, then, is this Joseph, this chosen one by Heaven, the most favoured amongst all men, the one to whom God was pleased to entrust the woman he created with such great love and jealousy made his very own? He is a son of David, a close relative of this Virgin. Mary, full of grace and heavenly though she was, had to live on earth and needed an earthly support, a human arm of flesh and blood to shield and uphold her. Joseph will

protect and defend her as his own, for she will be his true spouse.

The detachment of this David's son's heart from all earthly affection was so perfect that Mary, while she was totally his, could still belong totally to God.

The soul of st Joseph shone with brilliant purity when he came into the presence of the Blessed Virgin; for God did not want his purest creature to be loved by a love which was not perfectly chaste.

We see in st Joseph a totally purified soul, a soul in which sin has lost its power. St Augustine, while asserting that no one can ever be free from sin in this life and that even the saints must pray: „Forgive us our sins!“, recognized that God could, if he so desires, by way of exception and special privilege, „completely take away the corruption which causes a man to sin and array him with incorruptibility in this life so that he might see God everywhere present, just as the saints in Heaven see him but without a veil.“ Surely this marvellous privilege was granted to st Joseph who was called to virginity in marriage and who had the Son of God always before his eyes. Was he not, as st Augustine says, completely taken up with unceasing contemplation of his God? How could he sin? In the holy house of Nazareth, there was no place for sin.

„O Joseph, we catch a glimpse of your holiness in its dazzling mystery – Mary can be yours, but no less God's for all that. Furthermore, being yours, she belongs to God even more than before, and it is when she became yours that the

great mystery for which she was created was accomplished in her.“

How admirable is God's Providence! How it brought to light st Joseph's extraordinary purity of soul, he who did not keep the love of the creature for himself but returned everything to God!

„What a lesson you teach us, saint Joseph! You wanted nothing which is not of God and for God. In Mary, you experienced only God, as Mary experienced only God in you. O, would we were able to imitate such purity of heart. Obtain for us, o great saint, the grace to do so.“ (Dom Bernhard Maréchaux)

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