



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us pray for peace in the world and in all families. Let us not forget the holy Patron Saints of the Lay Community, such as st Brother André, st Francis of Sales, st Theresa of Avila, st Catherine of Siena and all Saints who greatly venerated st Joseph. They will help us to do so.

St Theresa of Avila: „I have known a servant of GOD to whom was revealed that st Joseph will grant his venerators particularly the following graces:

1. the virtue of chastity and protection in all temptations,
2. special help to escape from sin and obtain the state of grace,
3. a childlike and fervent devotion to Mary, our dear Mother of GOD,
4. protection against hell while struggling and a happy death,
5. the privilege to be blessed with children,
6. health and special help in all physical and spiritual needs,
7. when calling on his name such a mighty help, that the evil spirits will be terrified.“

With all my heart I wish everyone a happy New Year and the everlasting, special protection of GOD!

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

*Brother Paula*



January 2013

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Trial

Joseph arose at once and, following the command he had received, took the Child and His Mother and fled into Egypt. (see Matt 1,24) Let us consider the obedience of that just man and try to imitate it, for it includes the four degrees which constitute the perfection of that virtue.

St Joseph obeyed with total submission of judgement. At the first word of the Angel, without replying, he accepted the divine command. He could have suggested to the LORD that there were easier and more pleasant ways to protect His SON. If the flight was necessary, why not go to Arabia of Samaria, instead of Egypt? But far from that upright heart was the least objection, however obvious it might be. Respectfully, st Joseph submitted to the word of the Angel and was silent. The mission of the celestial ambassador toward him having been fulfilled, st Joseph was not curious to know more. He asked no questions and followed, to the letter, the advice that the HOLY SPIRIT gives in the Book of Ecclesiasticus (Sir 3,2ff):



„Seek not the things that are too high for you, and search not into things above your ability; but the things, that God has commanded you, think on them always, and in many of his works be not curious.“

St Joseph obeyed with courage and magnanimity. It was very difficult to carry out the command. It meant leaving his home and country, giving up all contact with his relatives, going into exile in a foreign, faraway land, where he

would be deprived of human assistance. His desire to carry out GOD's will made him generously sacrifice his own.

St Joseph obeyed promptly and without delay. He did not go on sleeping until morning. He did not stay in bed the rest of the night. He got up at once, made known to his holy Spouse the revelation he had received from the Angel and without delay, taking nothing with them, they departed. Thus they were on their way before dawn, perfectly carrying out the command they were given to flee in secret, as the shades of the night permitted them to do.

Mary and Joseph obeyed with great joy and satisfaction. The days were long and tiring; the Holy Family was deprived of ordinary means which might alleviate the hardships of the journey. They hardly gave a thought to their wants. They felt an inner joy that made them insensible to care, absorbed as they were in these two thoughts: for them GOD's will is the surest consolation; and above all they have with them the

Divine Child. His sweet company did more than charm their loneliness and, in their abandonment, replaced all things they might have lacked.

With what great faith in GOD they set out on their journey. Hence they did not seek elsewhere the comforts and refreshments most travellers are so eager to obtain.

„O Almighty GOD, Who gave to Mary and Joseph a spirit of such perfect obedience in their hearts, I beg You through their merits to grant me the same spirit, so that I may obey You like them with complete submission of judgement, with courage, promptness and joy, desiring only to do Your will and fully confident that Your Divine Providence will never forsake me as long as I shall persevere in uniting my will to Yours.“ (Venerable Louis de Ponte S.J.)

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