



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us contemplate CHRIST's suffering this month – from His Incarnation to His death on the Cross – together with Him a different situation each day. With Him und through Him let us sacrifice ourselves in favour of the Poor Souls.



St Theresa of Avila: „Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious Saint; for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from GOD. I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him, and who performed particular devotions in his honour, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue; for he makes great demands on those souls who recommend themselves to him.“

Let us always bear in mind this mighty Saint. In fact, there are no words to describe him. Whatever we imagine, read or write, is just like a blur.

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

*Brother Paula*



November 2013

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### The Sufferings of Joseph

St Joseph certainly had a great piece of Heaven on earth on the one hand; his life was a hard lot on the other, considering how much he suffered: even as a little child because of the many offences against GOD; later on, that he could only offer his family poverty; then, the constant reminder of the terrible suffering whenever he looked into the eyes of his beloved JESUS; then his sweat-inducing fears during his absence that Mary and JESUS will be harmed by evil people and spirits; that he might not be able to do GOD's will in everything; JESUS in the Temple ... Joseph lived and died pure like an Angel and yet he suffered so much.

Yes, GOD wanted it thus so that He could raise Joseph to an even higher level – right after Mary. Even Joseph's immeasurable merits flowed into the treasure chest of Heaven. Heaven hands them out again to us people, where it is needed most, where there is fervent prayer with confidence. How else would people often be able to cope with heavy strokes of fate, if they were not showered with graces from Heaven? Help is so mighty,



from small to great matters. Thus everything is divided fairly!

However much you may have suffered, whatever hardships you may have endured, GOD's almighty power is above all things, the truth that one can find the real bliss of life only with GOD, only in the depth of quiet moments and minutes while forgetting oneself.

It sometimes happens that we are going through hard times, that GOD makes it difficult for us so that we may know how to appreciate the good times and will not forget to give thanks.

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### Divine Service in Everyday Life

Work is something good for body, mind and soul, but sometimes it is a sheer necessity – great difficulty – full of sweat – exhaustion – sometimes even disappointment. But there is also pleasure in it. Who sows the seed, will also see the fruit and the reward. Everyday duties often take the last ounce of strength.

Sometimes man feels washed-out or on the wrong track. And yet, in all these arduous and never-ending duties there is a touch of satisfaction which no one wants to swap. We are going the same way together and are fighting for something with everlasting value.

Duty means 'caring' and behind it there must be love, which goes for every state of life. Only what we appreciate and have come to cherish, can we truly care for. So in the discharge of duties lies an essence called love. – Therefore the discharge of duties also gives blessing and will lead you to GOD.

Is doing my daily stint and everyday stuff really divine service? - Although my daily work from morning till night is filled with stress, duties, worries and fatigue, what I really did want was to do everything devotedly and with the aim of pleasing GOD. – So it was service on GOD's behalf.

Even if occasionally the minutes of prayer and thanksgiving are only brief, I do know that I have not lost GOD in my daily work because I always wanted to do His will.

The LORD whom I serve is not some manager, not some superior but GOD – my FATHER.

St Joseph had just the same experience. Let us ask him to bless our work all the time and to show us that in it there is always a deep meaning.

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