



and they were in danger of falling down into a 900-foot deep abyss. Then they heard a loud voice from the abyss: „Stop, stop! If you go any further you will fall down!” Following the instructions of the voice, they found the right track again. When some of them wanted to try and find the man in order to thank him, the Saint replied weeping: „You do not need to look for him, it was my father st Joseph. You will not find him.”

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us joyfully do so much good that in doing so we are able to save souls – always with the price of the Precious Blood of JESUS CHRIST.

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The praise of Joseph is the glory of Mother Mary and her Child.

With kind regards, a spiritual embrace and the blessing of saint Joseph I say goodbye again, your

Sister Paula



January 2014

Lay Community of St Joseph

Joseph, Living before Our Eyes

How can I become acquainted with this Saint – follow his life and get closer to him? I will become familiar with him through Sacred Scripture, through good books such as “The Life of st Joseph” (M. C. Baij), books by st Theresa of Avila and other Saints – and most of all, by joining my life with this Saint.

Let us spend the day with st Joseph. Let us tell him to stay beside us – let us go step by step next to him – let us think and work with him. Let us not go just anywhere in our thoughts, let us not fancy him as a statue, let us not seek him far away, since he is with us now, is he not? Let us imagine st Joseph alive and agile and let us look into his wonderful fatherly eyes. Let our eyes meet. The countenance of st Joseph must become alive to us. We will experience a deep, lasting joy. He understands everything without words. He is a man of few words. Let us observe him what he does, let us anticipate his wishes, let us make his standard our own, let us become like him.

Let us try to spend the day in humility and attentiveness, to carefully consider every single influence and experience

quietly and in silence and let us never lose heart to constantly ask st Joseph for help. He overlooks our weaknesses more than we think. I mean, he is so unique among all the Saints. Most of the time, it is not great people that frequently change the world, but weak ones who are in the hands of a great GOD. Let us have faith!

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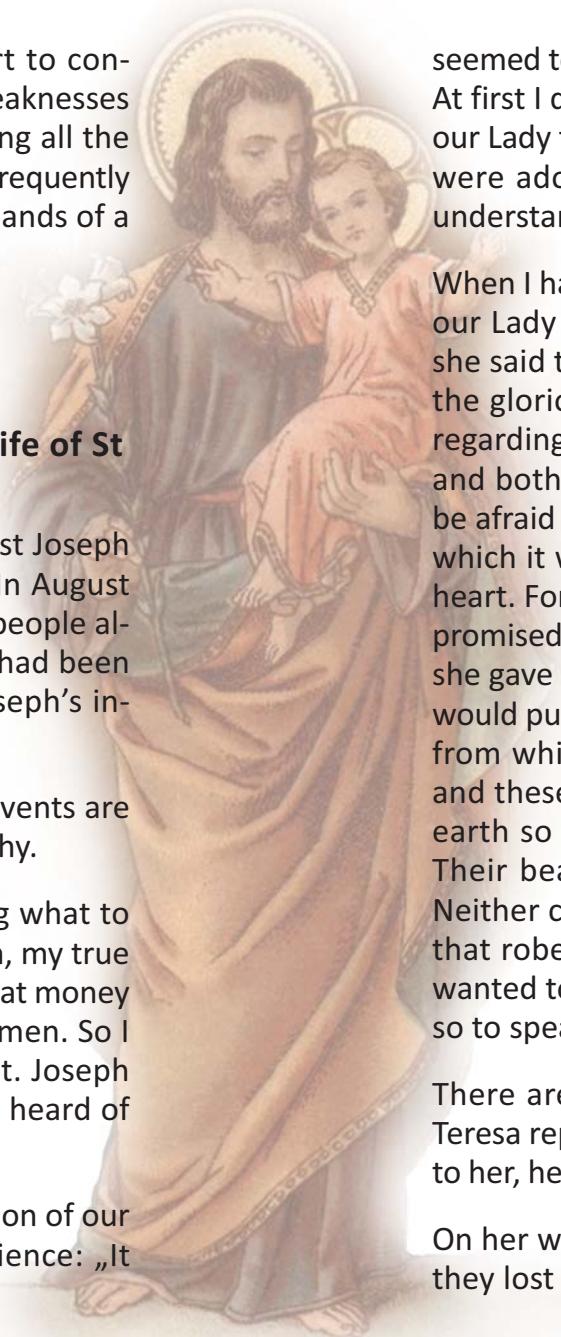
Mystical Experiences with St Joseph in the Life of St Teresa of Avila

The special experiences which st Teresa had with st Joseph begin with her being cured of a serious disease. In August 1539 the Saint falls into a coma for four days and people already think that she is dead. Afterwards her legs had been paralysed for three years. The Saint credits st Joseph's intercession with her recovery.

St Joseph repeatedly appeared to st Teresa. Two events are mentioned in the 33rd chapter of her autobiography.

„At one time I was in such a distress, not knowing what to do and unable to pay the workmen. Then st Joseph, my true father and lord, appeared to me, and assured me that money would not be wanting, I just was to hire the workmen. So I did, though I was penniless; and lo and behold, st. Joseph provided for me in a way that filled all those who heard of it with wonder.“

In a Dominican Church at the feast of the Assumption of our Lady (1561), st Therese had the following experience: „It



seemed to me that I was clothed in a white, shining garment. At first I did not see who was clothing me but then I noticed our Lady to my right and my father st Joseph to my left. Both were adorning me with this garment; and I was given to understand that from now on I was cleansed from my sins.

When I had been clothed and felt overjoyed and full of glory, our Lady seemed to take me by the hand. While doing so, she said to me that it made her very happy to see me serve the glorious st Joseph. I should be confident that my plan regarding the convent will be accomplished. In it our LORD and both of them will be very eagerly served. I should not be afraid of a slackening in this, even if the obedience under which it would be placed might not quite be after my own heart. For they would protect us, because her SON, too, has promised to be with us. As a token of the truth of her words, she gave me this piece of jewellery. It then seemed as if she would put around my neck a most splendid necklace of gold, from which hung an exceedingly precious cross. This gold and these gems outstrip all gold and all precious stones on earth so much so that you cannot make any comparison. Their beauty surpasses anything imaginable down here. Neither can any human mind form an idea of the fabrics of that robe, nor picture to itself the way in which the LORD wanted to let it shine. Everything on earth seems to be but, so to speak, a daubing of soot in comparison.”

There are still more apparitions of st Joseph, of which st Teresa reports. In difficult situations st Joseph shows himself to her, he comforts her and promises to help and protect her.

On her way to a new foundation together with eight sisters they lost their way in the rocky mountains of Gualdinfierno