



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- That we may increasingly spread the devotion to st Joseph and in doing so infinitely please the heart of Mary.



The Grace of All Graces

A young mother of several children was on the brink of dying. She had been given the Last Sacraments and knew that she was soon to go home. Her husband and children wept at her bed. Only the person who was dying was quiet and happy. Someone asked her the secret of this joy at approaching death. With a soft voice, but with an unwavering confidence she managed to reply: „For 25 years I have been praying to st Joseph to grant me a good hour of death. Now I believe and trust that he will grant it to me.“

Yes, it is the grace of all graces – a good hour of death! – Let us often pray st Joseph that he may implore it for us. But let us not only pray for ourselves, but also for all those who will die today.

With the blessing of saint Joseph I say goodbye again and remain united with you in my thoughts and with kind regards,

Paula



February 2014

Lay Community of St Joseph

St Joseph – Our Model

The excellent virtues which st Joseph possessed were constantly put to the test during his life.

Especially his patience was severely tried. How many strokes of fate befell him – poverty beyond description, serious hardship, great efforts and constant deprivation. In all of these he had recognised GOD's will and had promptly put them into action.

Anguish, sorrow and iniquities afflicting the SAVIOUR and His Mother, also struck st Joseph and in his heart of hearts he felt all their pain and joined in their suffering.

Let us think of the flight into Egypt saving his family from villainous hands. The mere thought of trying to kill the SON of GOD out of lust for power would have broken st Joseph's heart if GOD had not sustained him. Herod was in power at that time. The morbid fear that someone else – this very new-born king – might dispute his right to power, claim his throne, made him a murderer of many children in Bethlehem and its surroundings.

Joseph did what the Angel told him to do – he took the Child and His Mother and at night fled to a distant, foreign country – to Egypt. He did it devotedly and with great patience. He did not draw any false conclusions from it. He did not ask: „Oh GOD, why do You allow this to happen? – Why does Your SON made man have to run into such difficulties – live in such poverty and grow up in such hostility?“ Joseph remained unshakeable in his trust in GOD. He neither complained nor moaned but said: „It is good as it is, LORD!“ What a wonderful example to us all! What an unswerving faith in the Godhead in this Child. – How much did Joseph appreciate the indescribable greatness of his beloved and most pure Spouse Mary in the Mother of this divine SON. He loved her intimately and tenderly – the Mother of the Most High.

Let us resort to st Joseph. Let us learn to become silent and quiet in order to be able to hear his voice. This is the only way for his virtues to be passed on to us.

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Fatherhood of Joseph

„Joseph was not only the father of JESUS by name, he also had all the appropriate qualities, insofar as a human being can have them“, says st John of Damascus.

It is not only the fathering which makes up fatherhood, but also authority and careful guidance.

Is there a single duty which this best of all fathers, this faithful and wise servant, to whose guidance GOD entrusted His Family, would not have carried out in the most excellent way? Is it not Joseph who received the Infant JESUS at birth and put Him on the straw in the manger? Is it not Joseph who saved JESUS from the anger of His persecutor Herod? Is it not he who provided Him with food, clothing and shelter for so many years with the labour of his hands and by the sweat of his brow? How much tenderness did he show Him, how often did he feed Him personally, dress Him, teach Him to speak and to work! How often did Joseph, when the divine Child had grown up, rest at His breast! If Joseph had been such a tender father to JESUS, what then must JESUS have been to Joseph? There is no doubt that He was the best possible Son, loyal to him, obedient and full of respect in all things. (st Leonhard of Porto Maurizio)

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May st Joseph be always present with his virtues, especially in the virtue of silence. – He is allowed to share in the two-fold mystery of Incarnation in the most profound way: in the mystery of the GOD-Manhood of JESUS CHRIST and in the mystery of the virgin motherhood of Mary. He is called to hide these secrets from the eyes of men through his presence; he serves them as a veil so to speak. On the one hand, the little information from the Gospel points to the fact that his life was a life of seclusion and inconspicuousness, on the other hand, they make us suspect that st Joseph was an excellent family man. Therefore, he is a true model and patron for married couples. (Pope Pius XII)

