



What a great Saint we have in Heaven after Mary. Since then the month of March has belonged to st Joseph and a great mediator of grace is standing before GOD's throne. CHRIST is the Head of the Church and we are His members – Joseph is His acting Father, so he is also our good, benevolent father.

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us under the eyes of st Joseph perform our daily duties as best we can and be kind to those around us.



Let us rejoice at his unspeakable high dignity. St Joseph is endowed with matchless power in Heaven. Let us ask him to always take us under his protection. Let us go to him with great confidence and put all our worries and needs close to his fatherly heart. We will experience the power of his intercession.

With very kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph I remain with you,

*Sister Paula*



March 2014

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Go to Joseph

Especially now, in the month of March. It must be clear to us that Joseph devoted his whole person to the SON of GOD. Joseph, to whom Mary gave her purest and deepest love after the SAVIOUR, must be an extremely mighty intercessor at the throne of GOD. Let us not miss out on this special time and opportunity.

Let us entrust to him our families, our youth, the sick, the dying, the needy, the persecuted Christians, refugees, and all people who have sold their faith to worldly know-alls, deluding visionaries and to bad reading matter. Let us try a little harder than usual this month! Praying the Rosary, Novena, the "Hail Joseph" and so on. Let us increase the confidence in st Joseph with our relatives, let us bring new devotees to him. Each according to his abilities.

### Unique Dignity of St Joseph

His dignity and mission are second only to those of the Mother of GOD. It is easy to understand. It stands to

reason that a king would commit his paternal right to his son during the time of his long absence. What dignity would He give him by doing so. The eternal GOD has vested st Joseph with His paternal authority over His SON made Man. What an unprecedented token of loyalty. Likewise, what an incomprehensible submissiveness of the SON of GOD towards st Joseph! He who could say of Himself: „All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.“ (Matt 28,18) gladly accepts st Joseph’s authority over Himself. JESUS was in every respect dependent on st Joseph – He who could say of Himself: „Mine is the world and everything there is.“

St Joseph is allowed to look after Him by the hard labour of his hands. GOD, who adorned the whole of nature with the most wonderful, most colourful garment, granted to st Joseph that he might provide Him with clothes. GOD, whose Almighty Power is capable of warding off disaster from the whole world, allows st Joseph to protect Him, to carry Him through rough and dangerous regions. – When has any human being, except for Mary, ever been invested with such a high office – an unequalled dignity. How appropriately did GOD call him “Joseph”: the eminently noble one. The dignity of st Joseph is so grand, and therefore his intercessory power is so great, too. What power must he have in Heaven!

\* \* \*

### Protector of the Church

St Joseph’s everyday life: to earn a living with simple tools at the carpenter’s bench serving many people. After the work was done many exploiters chased him away, instead of

paying him. How much humiliations he put up with in silence. At home the presence of JESUS and Mary set him up from his everyday worries and encouraged him to endure everything bravely and to make it a sacrifice. His sole desire was to constantly do GOD’s will. Ever patient and loving, in silence and seclusion Joseph lived with his family in inward contemplation, making great progress in his life of virtue. For many years he had been unrecognised for mankind until he came to shine like a star in the sky after passing away. In the kingdom of the heavenly FATHER he took one of the best places. From around the fourth century there have been Saints known to have venerated st Joseph.

St Augustine stood up resolutely for the indescribable dignity and greatness of st Joseph. In the Middle Ages he achieved a shining and honoured reputation. Many great orders spoke out in favour of his veneration. St Bernardino of Siena and other Saints helped the faithful to appreciate and venerate st Joseph. It would not be long before st Joseph was given a feast day of his own. St Teresa of Avila also contributed greatly to his special veneration, who credited him with many extraordinary events and her own bodily healing. The members of the Jesuit order, founded in 1534, made it their duty to spread st Joseph at every opportunity. The feast of st Joseph was also celebrated by several cloisters. As early as 1290, the monastery of “St Florian” in Austria had a Mass especially for Saint Joseph and it was soon adopted by the entire diocese. There was an increasingly widespread veneration of this charming Saint, he has also been added to the Litany of the Saints. – He received his earthly crown when Pope Pius IX elected him as Patron of the Church on 8 December 1870 and made 19 March his feast day of the first class.

