



Following this sign from Heaven the priests declared Joseph from now on the spouse of the Virgin Mary, elected by GOD himself. And they arranged for both to be betrothed. With his Spouse Mary, Joseph went to Nazareth, their common home town. There was the house and property of Mary's parents.

(Excerpt from "Heiliger Josef, wir danken Dir  
[Saint Joseph, we thank You]"  
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### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- St Joseph, model and protector of the families, may this month help the jobless fathers in particular.



The apparition of the Angel, who initiates the flight to Egypt, shows us that such a holy man had close contact with the Angels and, therefore, often received revelations from them ... And as he recognises the Angel in his sleep so surely, and confidently trusts him, we can be certain that he had the gift of discernment.

With very kind regards and with the blessing of saint Joseph I say goodbye again,

*Brother Paula*



May 2014

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### The Just Man

Joseph, who bore the whole heritage of the Old Covenant in himself, has also been introduced in the beginnings of the New and eternal Covenant in JESUS CHRIST. May st Joseph show us the ways of GOD in this year and those to come. The holy Covenant will be perpetuated, time will go on in future and by the intercession of st Joseph the graces will abundantly flow, which lie hidden in the inexpressibly great mystery of the Incarnation of JESUS CHRIST.

If GOD does something, it is always beyond imagination, powerful and beyond our grasp – the plan of salvation – the whole life of JESUS CHRIST on earth. GOD entrusted the greatest and dearest to the just one: His SON and His Immaculate Mother. Under the protection and service of Joseph the salvation of man thrived and was kept secret. What a quiet and silent man. GOD entrusted him with such great matters, it is simply beyond us!

Let us learn of st Joseph to serve willingly – to always serve our neighbour, the Church, especially people in need. This ministry concerns all of us – each in his own

place, according to his strength, capacities and skills. By setting a good example everyone can act in an apostolic way, which is the duty of every Christian. There will surely be more merit in endeavouring in this matter to be a little more composed, quiet and silent.

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### The Wedding of St Joseph

As a child the Virgin Mary had already made a vow to dedicate her life to chastity and to choose only GOD as her LORD and Spouse. The Most High accepted this vow. Nevertheless He told Mary to enter into matrimony. That was a heavy trial for Mary! Still she hoped 'against all hope' (Rom 4,18) and prayed: „Eternal GOD, Your Majesty is incomprehensible. You created Heaven and earth, and all You created is subject to Your will. You can do with me as You please, without my giving up my promise.“ And GOD replied: „Do not be distressed, Mary. Your abandonment is pleasing to Me. My mighty arm is not bound by any law. Let it be My concern to decide what is best for you.“

GOD ordered the high priest Simeon in a dream to prepare the wedding of Mary. She should only be given to the spouse who was most worthy. Prompted and enlightened by Heaven the high priest carried out this command of GOD by taking the following decision in communion with the other priests and rabbis: „GOD has revealed His will and we ask him fervently to designate the man to whom Mary must be united. He must be of the family and generation of David.“ They set a day on which all the unmarried men of this generation

should come to Jerusalem. Joseph of Nazareth was also amongst these men. He was about thirty years old, well-built, of a gentle appearance and incomparably modest and virtuous. He also was absolutely pure in his thoughts and works and full of holy affections. Joseph made the vow of chastity in early childhood, and, like everything he did, he also lived according to this vow in the most perfect way. Joseph lived a most pure, flawless life before GOD and men. M. C. Baij writes: „One night, the Angel appeared to Joseph in a dream (he had besides his Guardian Angel another Angel who spoke to him in his dreams) and told him that GOD was very pleased that he had decided to lead a virginal life.“

What a great joy it would have been for him to be able to take Mary home with him as his Bride. But in his humility he thought himself totally unworthy of this grace. Yet it was his heart of all hearts which was filled with the most fervent veneration and esteem towards the most pure Virgin Mary. Being aware of his vow of virginity made to GOD, he completely surrendered himself to GOD's will and His instructions.

GOD enlightened the high priest by prompting him to give each of those present a withered branch. Then all should implore GOD in His Majesty with a living faith to reveal by this sign of the dry branches, whom He had destined to be the spouse of Mary. And lo and behold! When all those gathered were praying with the priests, only the branch of Joseph bloomed. Joseph heard in his heart the word of the LORD: „My servant Joseph, Mary will be your Spouse! Take her home with respect and veneration. She is pleasing in My eyes, righteous and, moreover, pure of body and soul.“

