



Family, that it would be impossible to separate their manner of operating. Joseph, as the head, represents the Family in its entirety, and from this position his intervention seems decisive to us.

Let us address ourselves to him with confidence so that he may heal the evils and destructive lesions which disfigure the contemporary family, that he may make the impious law of divorce return to the depths of hell from where it was once ejected, that he may also correct and make disappear from the souls of spouses the latent separation of wills and contradictory tendencies which make the good upbringing of children impossible, that he may give back to spouses the sentiment of their dignity as procreators.

Excerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph",  
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### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, for the sake of Your great pains and joys, please do not allow Europe to succumb to Islam because so many Christians – governments and people – no longer speak up for faith.“



With heartfelt vacation greetings and united with the blessing of saint Joseph,

*Sister Paula*



August 2014

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Assiduous Prayer

In the middle of March in the year 1867, a paralytic woman of Protestant denomination was brought into a Canadian nursing home which was under the patronage of st Joseph. She came there to find a cure for her suffering and had no intention of changing her religion to Catholicism. She even explained it to one of her friends, saying: „It will take somebody really smart to catch me.“ She was not acquainted with st Joseph, even less did she know of his skills for winning a soul for GOD.

Each day, the sisters working in the nursing home made the devotions for the month of March and addressed their prayers to st Joseph for the poor paralytic. Without her knowing, they sewed into the folds of her dress two medals, one of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the other of st Joseph.

One day a sister brought st Joseph into her conversation with the sick lady. „St Joseph?“ replied the Protestant lady, „I do not know the man; I have never seen him.“ – „How is that?“ answered the sister, „You are in a house whose master you do not know?“ Then she

opened her prayer book and handed her a picture of st Joseph. „My! How good looking he is!“ she said as she studied the picture, „But who is he?“ The good sister described st Joseph to the sick lady the best way she could. To her great surprise the lady took the picture, kissed it with respect and asked to keep it. From that day on she had no other consolation than to hear st Joseph spoken of, to have his life and virtues which he had practised described to her.

She had a young son whom pious friends introduced to the Catholic faith. He went to his mother to ask her to let him make his profession of faith, which was arranged for the first of May. She agreed to this wholeheartedly. Scarcely had he left her when she sent for the house chaplain. „Sir,“ she said, „I wish to become a Catholic! I want to be baptised at the same time as my son! Please, be so kind as to instruct me in the faith.“

She was instructed and prepared, so that on the first of May the mother and the son could be seen at the foot of st Joseph’s altar mingling their tears with the holy water which flowed down from their foreheads. On the last day of the same month, the new Catholics made their First Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation together. Happy are they who know st Joseph well and make him known to others!

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## Model of Sanctity in Family Life

Families who wish to be Christian should resort to the patronage of st Joseph. In this they will receive very special help in order to realise their Christian ideal.

„Joseph leads us directly to Mary, and Mary leads us to the source of all holiness, to JESUS who has sanctified all family virtues by His own submission to Joseph and Mary. Thus our desire is to see all Christian families renewed by modelling themselves upon such noble examples of virtue. In this way, when the community of mankind rests upon the foundation of the family, the day that the domestic social unit shall acquire more stability, when conjugal sanctity, harmony and fidelity shall be safeguarded more religiously, at that very instant shall be seen a new kinship, like a new force, spread across all the members of the human society, and the virtue of CHRIST penetrate into its very depths. That day we shall witness not only a change for the better, but also see flourish the reform of social and international life.“  
(Pope Benedict XV)

These are words to meditate on as they reveal to us the power of the support of st Joseph. His intercession on our behalf faithfully follows the approval of Mary and JESUS. – He has his very own powerful influence but he is likewise the mediator of the incomparable flow of graces which emanate from Mary, his spouse, and of the graces which flow from the source of all graces, namely from his JESUS.

If he is invoked as the noble head of the Holy Family, he acts in this capacity. His action is, so to speak, reinforced by Mary’s and carries with it the action of the All-powerful JESUS. Such is the union of three persons within this Holy

