



Betrothal – Mary and Joseph

Who would be able to describe the joys of such a bond, which is not of this world? The souls of Mary and Joseph meet in an unspeakable light of a divine merging, in the spiritual fragrance of holy virginity. Mary is going to be the Mother of GOD, Joseph the foster and nursing father of JESUS.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us daily do something out of love, e.g. make a voluntary renunciation concerning some particular inclination – or a renunciation of a certain fondness – attentiveness to people in difficulties – a prayer for the sick, the dying, the Poor Souls.



19 September is the foundation day of our Lay Community, now four years ago. I wonder how everyone is doing under the special protection of st Joseph.

Has anyone's medal become unsightly? Please send it back. It will be replaced by a gold-plated medal, with the same image and the same blessing.

With the blessing of saint Joseph, I remain with kind regards,

Brother Paula



September 2014

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Great Famine

St Joseph's Orphanage, on Great Slave Lake in Canada, was threatened by an imminent famine in March 1917. One hundred orphans, ten nuns and as many fathers and brothers felt the growing pangs of hunger. They dared not think of caribou, for the hunters up to five hundred kilometres away said that the woods favoured by these reindeer for their wintering were deserted. The brothers caught only four trout in eight days with their seventy fishing poles stretched out together over a long distance in the deep water under the ice.

One night, Father Duport, superior of the mission, utterly consumed with worry, went to the dining-hall where he found the children seated at the table around small roasted pieces of the last fried fish. Assuming a dissatisfied air, he said: „My children, if we are destitute, it is not the fault of our brothers, or of the sisters, for they have tried everything, and have sacrificed all for you. It is your fault!“ Several children, believing they were being reproached for having eaten too much, began to sob. „That is not the reason“, continued the Father Superior. „If I am angry, very angry, it is because you are not praying

to st Joseph with enough fervour! That is what I wanted to tell you." Upon this explanation, all the little ones stood up and promised to pray with all their might.

The Mother Superior, asked to determine the number of caribou necessary to save the mission, responded that they needed „one hundred, not one less.“ – „Well, my children, on your knees!“ A new novena began, to call upon st Joseph to provide the one hundred necessary caribou.

Father Duport sent for the two hired hunters of the mission. „Prepare your dogs immediately and leave.“ The native huntsmen shrugged their shoulders: „But you know as well as we do, Father, that there are no more. It's impossible.“ – „Leave“, replied the Father, „go and kill one hundred caribou, not one less! St Joseph owes them to us, because we need them and we asked him for them. He will send them to us.“

Feeling quite sure they were going to fail, but paid for it anyway, the two men left. – They had not walked two days, a short distance for that country, when a countless army of reindeer stood before them, coming from the east, against all known habits, in Indian memory, of these nomadic animals. Dumbfounded to see so suddenly and in this place, more caribou than they had ever seen together at one time, the hunters gathered their senses, took position and shot at the herd which ran away at top speed. A reindeer fell, sometimes two, with each shot of their powerful rifles. When the herd broke up, the Indians counted the dead. There were hundred and three.

It was at the precise moment that the sisters and the orphans, united at the chapel for the novena, implored st Joseph

in a heart-rending prayer to quickly supply the one hundred caribou, not one less.

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Joseph of Nazareth

He is the well-beloved of GOD and of many needy people. We know little from Sacred Scripture and there are no written records of him from his own mouth.

„The greatness of st Joseph is to be found where people do not see it nor seek it. GOD had concealed the holy man from the world. It was not supposed to see him and become aware of his greatness, neither was it able to. For Joseph had a unique mission. He was chosen as a seal to guard the tremendous mystery of GOD. His election was: to protect the most delicate mystery of JESUS' life from the obtrusive glances of a wicked, disrespectful and ignorant world.“(J. Weigl)

Therefore, st Joseph has remained unnoticed in the history of the Church for a long time. Only in recent times have the spiritual writers and Saints, especially st Theresa of Avila and st Francis of Sales emphasized the beauty of his character, the uniqueness of his mission, as well as the power of his intercession and the blessing of his veneration.

Yes, he is indeed the great friend and helper, the Saint of JESUS' childhood, the Protector of the Church and in a very special way also the Protector of many congregations, Patron Saint of whole countries (Canada, China). Joseph has an incredible stock of patronages. Let us go to him and ask him for his blessing.

