



St Joseph had devoted his work, his endeavour, often under circumstances of great hardship, worries and fears, completely to the Redeemer. This was his only desire and to completely forget himself. In the depth of his spiritual life he steadily soared to perfection. He had a simple, clear, see-through soul, which did not have second thoughts about how to follow GOD's plans. In great freedom he placed his own self at GOD's disposal, he took everything upon himself as to circumstances and responsibility, poverty, reproaches and evil-mindedness on the part of the people, without second-guessing himself. He was always oriented towards GOD's will – His plans, which remain a mystery to men. Why? Because faith, hope and love are lacking.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us ask st Joseph to grant us the grace of recollection in prayer, in contemplation and when receiving Holy Communion.
- Also, this month in particular, we want to remember the faithful departed. They are hoping for our help.

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It is my heartfelt desire to say thanks for the extremely generous donation at the women's meeting. May st Joseph reward you all! With a good conscience I can now have new and higher quality Joseph's medals stamped.

With very kind regards and the blessing of saint Joseph,

Sister Paula



November 2014

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Attitude of St Joseph

Pope John XXIII emphasizes that he often draws inspiration from the religious attitude of st Joseph: „At the mysterious event of the birth of CHRIST and of His childhood st Joseph acts secretly and discreetly, but at the same time actively and energetically. He is a humble and modest man, who nonetheless has to make important decisions in obedience to GOD. His behaviour is worth following to all of us – both priests and lay people. The loving cheerfulness which the nursing Father of JESUS emanates moves the people to become more intimately acquainted with him and to be taught by the unobtrusive example of his life. St Joseph belongs to those who say little, but live intensely, for he does not shirk any single responsibility, which the will of the LORD imposes on him. St Joseph is open to the divine call; whatever may happen in his often so difficult life, he remains composed and sensible. St Joseph is a tireless man of prayer and he shows an unshakeable, trusting faith in JESUS CHRIST, the SON of GOD.“

The Pope now quotes the few scenes of the Gospel which show us st Joseph: „In the moments of his severe trials st Joseph is silent. Though he is 'just', he does not judge Mary, whose pregnancy he perceives. He does not oppose GOD's Providence. As soon as the LORD takes him into His confidence

through the heavenly Messenger, he listens and obeys in silence. In the poverty of Bethlehem's stable he assists Mary. In the middle of the night he takes the Child together with Mary and faces an uncertain future. After he has been instructed by the Angel, he returns to Nazareth, in order to resume his simple life as a workman."

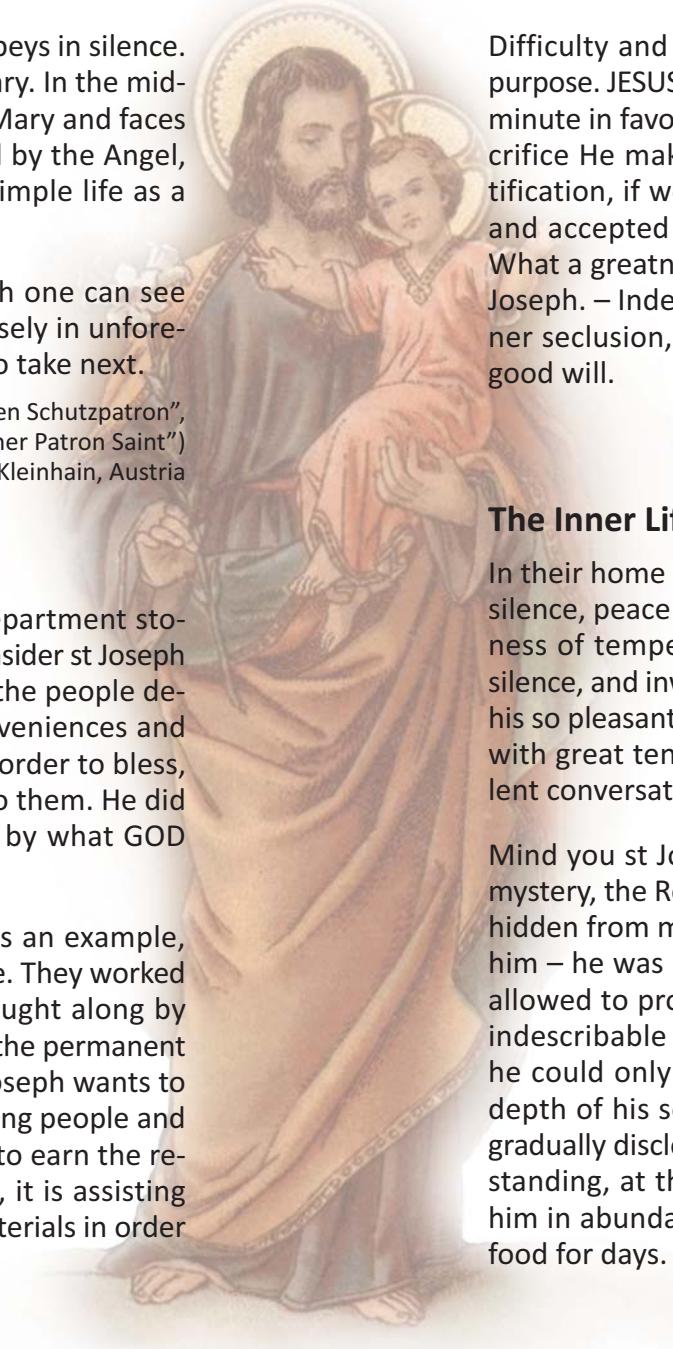
Then John XXIII notes that in the life of st Joseph one can see that he who has faith is free from fear, will act wisely in unforeseen situations and will not skip the step he has to take next.

Excerpt from "St Josef - Zeugnisse der Kirche über ihren Schutzpatron",
("St Joseph – Testimonies of the Church about her Patron Saint")
Published by St Joseph Publishers, A-3107 Kleinhain, Austria

Joseph the Workman

Work has been sanctified by GOD – in offices, department stores, workshops, schools, factories, on farms etc. Consider st Joseph who would do anything, who devoted himself to the people despite all effort and fatigue. He renounced all conveniences and preferred to bend down fatherly to the people in order to bless, to comfort, and to give fresh heart and strength to them. He did not know self-love. His aim was to be absorbed by what GOD had assigned him to do.

Each family, each workman can take st Joseph as an example, can take the Holy Family in Nazareth as an example. They worked very diligently, also if there were difficulties brought along by every working day. The love of GOD prevailed and the permanent readiness to resign themselves to GOD's will. St Joseph wants to bring home to us what dignity is assigned to working people and that work can be a means to perfection, in order to earn the reward of everlasting bliss. Work is a high mission, it is assisting the Creator-GOD from whom it actually has all materials in order to support oneself, to develop and to grow well.



Difficulty and effort in our daily lives are simply part of GOD's purpose. JESUS CHRIST forced Himself and wore Himself out every minute in favour of us men. With our good intention and our sacrifice He makes our life, whatever it is, into a means of sanctification, if we unite ourselves with His sacrifice. St Joseph did and accepted everything willingly in order to fulfil GOD's will. What a greatness and holiness is growing in the quiet and silent Joseph. – Indeed, true greatness and dignity displays itself in inner seclusion, inward order, persistent joyful commitment and good will.

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The Inner Life of St Joseph

In their home in Nazareth there was a wonderful atmosphere of silence, peace – no frenzy of activity. About Joseph was an evenness of temper affecting everything he did. Through stillness, silence, and inwardness (not stand-offish) his personality revealed his so pleasant and sympathetic nature. Everything he did, he did with great tenderness. His activity was wrapped in an inner, silent conversation with GOD.

Mind you st Joseph was always in close contact with the great mystery, the Redeemer, who lived under his roof. What had been hidden from man from everlasting, GOD revealed – entrusted to him – he was allowed to guard, cherish and tend to it – he was allowed to provide food and clothing for the SON of GOD. This indescribable mystery was so overwhelming for st Joseph that he could only grasp and digest it in stillness, in silence, in the depth of his soul, bit by bit and little by little. Mary and JESUS gradually disclosed to him this wonderful mystery beyond understanding, at the same time GOD's grace filled and enlightened him in abundance, so much so that he did not stand in need of food for days.

Book Recommendations

Once again I would like to most warmly recommend the following books:

“Brother André: Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of Saint Joseph” by Jean-Guy Dubuc (ISBN 159-4-71190-9 – ISBN-13: 978-1-59471-190-9)

Available with:

Ave Maria Press

P.O. Box 428

Notre Dame, IN 46556

USA

Phone: 800-282-1865 x1

E-Mail: avemariapress.1@nd.edu

Internet: www.avemariapress.com

“The Life of St. Joseph by Maria Cecilia Baij” (ISBN-13: 978-1890137014 – ISBN-10: 1890137014)

Available with:

<http://www.amazon.ca>

“The Poem of the Man-GOD” 5 Volumes

Available with:

Valtorta Publishing

PO Box 24102,

Rochester NY 14624.

Phone: 1-888-258-6782

Internet: www.valtorta.org

For example:

“The Poem of the Man-GOD”