



the sacred silence of their souls, where GOD only can hear voices and those who are well liked by GOD, because they are His faithful servants and are full of Him.

The wisdom of Joseph increased by his union and closeness to Mary, Full of Grace, and prepared him to penetrate the deepest secrets of GOD and enables him to protect and defend Mary from the snares of man and demon. It makes the just man a Saint, and the Saint the guardian of the Spouse and of the SON of GOD. ... It is the living Ark of GOD, whom he receives in guardianship and whom he must return to GOD as pure as he received her." (cf. 'The Poem of the Man-GOD', chapter 13)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us, in all our thinking and acting, behave as if we were to die today.



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

Paula



February 2015

Lay Community of St Joseph

Under Joseph's Care

St Joseph was called by GOD to serve the Person and mission of JESUS directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. It is in this way that he cooperates in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a 'minister of salvation'. His fatherhood is expressed concretely 'in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it; in having used the legal authority which was his over the Holy Family in order to make a total gift of self, of his life and work; in having turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of self, an oblation of his heart and all his abilities into love placed at the service of the Messiah growing up in his house'.

In recalling that 'the beginnings of our redemption' were entrusted 'to the faithful care of Joseph', the Liturgy specifies that „GOD placed him at the head of his family, as a faithful and prudent servant, so that with fatherly care he might watch over His only begotten SON“. Leo XIII emphasizes the sublime nature of this mission: „He among all stands out in his august dignity, since by divine

disposition he was guardian, and according to human opinion, Father of GOD'S SON. Whence it followed that the Word of GOD was subjected to Joseph, He obeyed him and rendered to him that honour and reverence that children owe to their father“.

Since it is inconceivable that such a sublime task would not be matched by the necessary qualities to adequately fulfil it, we must recognize that Joseph showed JESUS 'by a special gift from Heaven, all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know'. – Besides fatherly authority over JESUS, GOD also gave Joseph a share in the corresponding love, the love that has its origin in the FATHER 'from whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named' (Eph 3,15).

The Gospels clearly describe the fatherly responsibility of Joseph toward JESUS. For salvation – which comes through the humanity of JESUS – is realized in actions which are an everyday part of family life, in keeping with that 'condescension' which is inherent in the economy of the Incarnation. The Gospel writers carefully show how in the life of JESUS nothing was left to chance, but how everything took place according to GOD'S predetermined plan. The oft-repeated formula, „This happened, so that there might be fulfilled ...“, in reference to a particular event in the Old Testament serves to emphasize the unity and continuity of the plan which is fulfilled in CHRIST.

With the Incarnation, the 'promises' and 'figures' of the Old Testament become 'reality': places, persons, events and rites interrelate according to precise divine commands communicated by Angels and received by creatures who are particularly sensitive to the voice of GOD. Mary is the LORD'S humble Servant, prepared from eternity for the task of being the Mother of GOD. Joseph is the one whom GOD chose to be the 'overseer of the LORD'S birth', the one who has the responsibility to look after the SON of GOD'S 'ordained' entry into the world, in accordance with divine dispositions and human laws. All of the so-called 'private' or 'hidden' life of JESUS is entrusted to Joseph's guardianship.

excerpt from the apostolic exhortation
of Pope John Paul II on saint Joseph

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JESUS says: „What does the Book of Wisdom say, singing her praises? ‚Within wisdom is truly a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, and subtle! ... She is so pure that she pervades and permeates all things. She is a breath of the power of GOD, ... hence nothing impure can find a way into her ... image of GOD'S goodness‘. (Wisdom 7,22ff)

Not by human culture, but by supernatural education could Joseph read in the sealed book of the Immaculate Virgin and border upon prophetic truths by his 'seeing' a mystery surpassing human understanding where others could only see a great virtue. Since he is imbued with this wisdom, he sailed with a secure spirit the sea of this mystery of grace which is Mary. He penetrated with her spiritual contacts, in which, rather than the lips, the two spirits speak to each other in