



for his sacrifice, his patience, his perseverance, his faith. Which faith is greater than this one that believed without seeing the miracles of the Messiah?

Praise be to My nursing Father! He was an example to you of what you lack: purity, faithfulness and perfect love. Praise be to the magnificent reader of the sealed Book, imbued with Wisdom to be able to understand the mysteries of grace and chosen by GOD to protect the Salvation of the world against the snares of all enemies!" (cf. 'The Poem of the Man-God', chapter 13)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us pray for love of the cross – some may be frightened by it. But JESUS makes us His own, if we own His cross. Furthermore He says: „Take up your cross and follow Me.“ – With all our pain and troubles, with all our misery and hardship let us join the SAVIOUR on His Way of the Cross, also on behalf of all men.



May the Easter joy in the risen LORD JESUS CHRIST strengthen our hearts.

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

*Paula Schneider*



April 2015

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### The Presentation of JESUS in the Temple

This rite, to which Luke refers (2,22ff), includes the consecration and ransom of the first-born and sheds light on the subsequent stay of JESUS in the Temple at the age of twelve.

The ransoming of the first-born is another obligation of the father, and it is fulfilled by Joseph. Represented in the first-born is the people of the Old Covenant, ransomed from slavery in order to belong to GOD. Here too, JESUS – who is the true 'price' of ransom (cf. 1 Cor 6,20; 7,23; 1 Pt 1,19) – not only 'fulfils' the Old Testament rite, but at the same time transcends it, since He is not a subject to be redeemed, but the very Author of redemption.

The Gospel writer notes that 'His Father and His Mother marvelled at what was said about Him' (cf. Lk 2,23), in particular at what Simeon said in his canticle to GOD, when he referred to JESUS as the 'Salvation which GOD has prepared in the presence of all peoples, a Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to His people Israel' and as a 'sign that is spoken against.' (cf. Lk 2,30-34)

## The Flight into Egypt

After the presentation in the Temple the Evangelist Luke notes: „And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.“ (Lk 2,39-40)

But according to Matthew's text, a very important event took place before the return to Galilee, an event in which divine providence once again had recourse to Joseph. We read: „Now when the magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'“ (Mt 2,13) Herod learned from the magi who came from the East about the birth of the 'king of the Jews.' (Mt 2,2) And when the magi departed, he 'sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under.' (Mt 2,16) By killing them all, he wished to kill the newborn 'King of the Jews' whom he had heard about. And so, Joseph, having been warned in a dream, 'took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: out of Egypt have I called my son.' (Mt 2,14-15; cf. Hos 11,1)

And so JESUS' way back to Nazareth from Bethlehem passed through Egypt. Just as Israel

had followed the path of the exodus 'from the condition of slavery' in order to begin the Old Covenant, so Joseph, guardian and co-operator in the providential mystery of GOD, even in exile watched over the One who brings about the New Covenant.

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

## Praise Be to My Nursing Father

JESUS says: „... Now, in this time of grace, Joseph puts himself at the service of GOD. Then the storm of the trial will come, as for all Saints, to be tested and made helpers of GOD.

Aaron could not enter the Sanctuary beyond the veil in front of the Throne of Mercy that is over the Ark, whenever he chose, because he would have died. But Joseph really enters the Sanctuary of GOD, when and as far as GOD wants, beyond the veil that conceals the Ark on which the SPIRIT of GOD hovers. He offers himself and will offer the Lamb as holocaust for the sins of the whole world and in expiation of such sin. And he does that dressed in linen, and mortifying his virile limbs to abolish their faculty of sensation, which once, at the beginning of times, did triumph, impairing the rights of GOD on man and which will now be crushed in the SON, in the Mother and in the nursing Father, to lead men back to grace and restore the right of GOD on man. He does that with his perpetual chastity.

Was Joseph not on Golgotha? Do you think he is not amongst the co-redeemers? I tell you solemnly that he was amongst the first and therefore he is great in the eyes of GOD; great

