



is old' from the storehouse of the noble figure of Joseph. (cf. Mt 13,52)

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

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- In the month of May we want to bind a wreath of roses for Mary, the Mother of GOD, by praying the Rosary. If possible at least ten Hail Marys each day – and from time to time a heartfelt 'Hail Mary' for her intentions. In doing so, we will please st Joseph as well.



“HOLY GHOST – let the flame of love strike us unhindered and no longer allow any shadows to enter!”

The two attached pictures may be passed on to those interested and acquaintances, and can be ordered again with me at all times. – The one picture of st Joseph with the short prayer is intended for children, the other one with prayer and address particulars for handing out to adults.

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

*Sister Paula*



May 2015

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### JESUS' Stay in the Temple

From the time of the Annunciation, both Joseph and Mary found themselves, in a certain sense, at the heart of the mystery hidden from eternity in the mind of GOD, a mystery which had taken on flesh: „The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.“ (Jn 1,14) He dwelt among men, within the surroundings of the Holy Family of Nazareth – one of many families in this small town in Galilee, one of the many families of the land of Israel. There JESUS 'grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.' (Lk 2,40) The Gospels summarize in a few words the long period of the 'hidden' life, during which JESUS prepared Himself for His messianic mission. Only one episode from this 'hidden time' is described in the Gospel of Luke: the Pass-over in Jerusalem when JESUS was twelve years old.

Together with Mary and Joseph, JESUS took part in the feast as a young pilgrim. „And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it.“ (Lk 2,43) After a day's journey, they noticed His absence and began to search 'among their kinsfolk and acquaintances.' „After

three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers." (Lk 2,46-47) Mary asked: „Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." (Lk 2,48) JESUS answered: „Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2,49)

Joseph, of whom Mary had just used the words 'your father,' heard this answer. That, after all, is what all the people said and thought: „JESUS was the Son (as was supposed) of Joseph." (cf. Lk 3,23) Nonetheless, the reply of JESUS in the Temple brought once again to the mind of His 'presumed father' what he had heard on that night twelve years earlier: „Joseph ... do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 1,20) From that time onwards he knew that he was a guardian of the mystery of GOD, and it was precisely this mystery that the twelve-year-old JESUS brought to mind: „I must be in my FATHER's house."

### **The Support and Education of JESUS**

The growth of JESUS "in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man" (Lk 2,52) took place within the Holy Family under the eyes of Joseph, who had the important task of 'raising' JESUS, that is, feeding, clothing and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father.

In the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church venerates 'the memory of Mary, the ever Virgin Mother of GOD, and the memory of st Joseph,' because 'he fed him whom the faithful must eat as the Bread of eternal life.'

For His part, JESUS "was obedient to them," (Lk 2,51) respectfully returning the affection of His 'parents.' In this way He wished to sanctify the obligations of the family and of work, which He performed at the side of Joseph.

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### **A Just Man – The Husband of Mary**

In the course of that pilgrimage of faith which was his life, Joseph, like Mary, remained faithful to GOD's call until the end. While Mary's life was the bringing to fullness of that fiat first spoken at the Annunciation, at the moment of Joseph's own 'annunciation' he said nothing; instead he simply 'did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.' (Mt 1,24) And this first 'doing' became the beginning of 'Joseph's way.' The Gospels do not record any word ever spoken by Joseph along that way. But the silence of Joseph has its own special eloquence, for thanks to that silence we can understand the truth of the Gospel's judgement that he was 'a just man.' (Mt 1,19)

One must come to understand this truth, for it contains one of the most important testimonies concerning man and his vocation. Through many generations the Church has read this testimony with ever greater attention and with deeper understanding, drawing, as it were, 'what is new and what