



Who can measure my struggle against the dismay that endeavoured to overwhelm me in order to convince me that I had hoped in vain in the LORD? Oh! I think it was the furious rage of Satan! I perceived doubt rising behind my back, and stretching its icy claws to imprison my soul and prevent it from praying. Doubt is so dangerous, yes even lethal to the spirit. It is lethal because it is the first agent of the deadly disease called “despair”, against which we must react with all our strength, so that our souls may not perish, and we may not lose GOD.” (comp. “The Poem of the Man-God”, Chapter 25)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us pray for one another, that each one may strive to contemplate the life of st Joseph – to imitate him in his life of virtue.



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

Paula Schneider



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Lay Community of St Joseph

Work as an Expression of Love

Work was the daily expression of love in the life of the Family of Nazareth. The Gospel specifies the kind of work Joseph did in order to support his family: he was a carpenter. This simple word hides the variety of his work, of his trade. He had two very skilful hands. For JESUS, these were hidden years, the years to which Luke refers after recounting the episode that occurred in the Temple: „And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.“ (Lk 2,51) This “submission” or obedience of JESUS in the house of Nazareth should be understood as a sharing in the work of Joseph. Having learned the work of his presumed father, He was known as “the carpenter’s son.” If the Family of Nazareth is an example and model for human families, in the order of salvation and holiness, so too, by analogy, is JESUS’ work at the side of Joseph the carpenter. ... Human work, and especially manual labour, receive special prominence in the Gospel. Along with the humanity of the SON of GOD, work too has been taken up in the mystery of the Incarnation. Through his workbench where he plied his trade together with JESUS, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of Redemption.

In the human growth of JESUS “in wisdom, age and grace,” the virtue of industriousness played a notable role, since “work is a human good” which “transforms nature” and makes man “in a sense, more human.”

The importance of work in human life demands that its meaning be known and assimilated in order to “help all people to come closer to GOD the Creator and Redeemer, to participate in his plan of salvation for man and the world, and to deepen friendship with CHRIST in their lives, by accepting, through faith, a living participation in his threefold mission as Priest, Prophet and King.”

What is crucially important here is the sanctification of daily life, a sanctification which each person must acquire according to his or her own state, and one which can be promoted according to a model accessible to all people: „St Joseph is the model of those humble ones that Christianity raises up to great destinies; ... he is the proof that in order to be a good and genuine follower of CHRIST, there is no need of ‘great things’, it is enough to have the common, simple and human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic.“

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

The Mother of GOD to St Bridget of Sweden

„My daughter, unfortunately most people do not know what great privileges the LORD has granted to my spouse Joseph and how power-

ful his intercession with GOD is for all those, who recommend themselves to him. Bear in mind, that Joseph is a very powerful advocate to gain forgiveness and grace for the poor sinners. You should thank the LORD for my revealing this to you! From now on be anxious to have an ardent veneration for my holy spouse all the days of your life! Praise the LORD for having adorned Joseph so generously with graces and privileges and for my being so fortunate to be granted him as a spouse. Turn confidently to him in all your needs and strive to make others venerate him. Be sure that GOD will grant anything on earth that my spouse asks for in Heaven. The LORD wants to grant great and extraordinary graces by the intercession of Joseph.“

St Joseph’s Passion

Mary says: „Also my Joseph suffered his passion (Mt 1,18-25); it began in Jerusalem when he noticed my condition. And it lasted several days, exactly as it had happened to JESUS and to me. Neither was it less painful for his soul. And only because of the holiness of my just spouse, it was contained in such a dignified and secret form, that it has been hardly noticed throughout centuries.

Oh! How painful was our first Passion! Who can feel its intimate and silent intensity? Who can describe my pain when I realised that Heaven had not yet heard my prayer by revealing the mystery to Joseph? I understood that he was not aware of it when I saw that he was respectful to me as usual. If he had known that I bore in me the Word of GOD, he would have adored that Word enclosed in my womb, with the acts of veneration which are due to GOD ...

