



and enlightened him abundantly so that he did not need any food for days.

St. Joseph had offered his work, his effort, often in great hardship, worries and fears wholly to the Redeemer. He had no other desire and had totally forgotten himself. In the depths of his spiritual life he grew step by step to a higher level of perfection. He had a simple, clear, transparent soul, which did not second guess on how to follow GOD's plans. In great freedom he placed everything he could have called his own at GOD's disposal, he accepted all troubles and responsibility, hardship, accusations and spitefulness at the hands of the people, without asking questions. He was always oriented towards GOD's will – His plans, which remain hidden from men. Why? Because they lack faith, hope and love.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Father Joseph, we ardently beseech you to bestow on all Christian families the grace to let themselves be renewed in faith.“



With all good wishes for the New Year and the blessing of Saint Joseph I remain with you,

Sister Paula



January 2016

Lay Community of St Joseph

Poverty Dominated His Whole Life

The SON of GOD, coming into this world, could have made use of the goods of this world without fear that His thrice-holy soul might be contaminated by their use, but He wished to banish them from His human life and have no experience of them whatsoever. He was born poor. Between the manger of His birth and the cross of His death, poverty occupied every instant of His human existence. He thereby gave us the example we needed to hold worldly goods in contempt; and even more, it was His adorable charity which impelled Him to take His place among the poor and the disinherited. Having taken upon Himself the cloak of poverty, He rendered it lovable and full of victorious attractions. He impressed by anticipation into the souls of Mary, His Mother and Joseph, His adopted Father, the love of poverty, which, since His coming, has led so many souls after Him.

St. Joseph delighted in taking a poor wife, Mary; and Mary was delighted to take a poor husband. O holy union of two souls, both poor and virgins, in whom were manifested incomparable riches, from which proceeded an

affection purer and brighter than light itself! If there were ever two spouses who loved each other in a chaste manner and in GOD, without any regard for the advantages of the world, they were Mary and Joseph.

This poverty, which was one of the distinctive signs of his union with Mary, was precious to Joseph. He felt its thorns during the flight into Egypt, and he felt its bruises under the humble roof in Nazareth. But he loved these thorns and bruises; the thorns blossomed and the bruises turned into joys.

Nothing can compare with the charm of the cradle of the religious orders, because the poverty of Bethlehem and Nazareth are usually found there initially. Later on comforts are introduced; the religious are well-housed, well-fed, and want for nothing, but the joy of serving GOD wanes, and the purity of vocations leaves much to be desired. It is for this reason that GOD allows catastrophes which suddenly bring the orders back to primitive poverty.

„O St Joseph, spread the love for poverty throughout the Church and the souls of men. You are the foster father of the poor! The poverty you lived under with JESUS and Mary was so great, but you provided for their needs. You will not fail to provide for those religious families who truly love poverty, and it is especially in their favour that your providence is so admirably displayed. Do not allow your true children to be put off by poverty.



Protect also all the poor, those for whom poverty is a way of life, a necessity. Teach them to make it holy by resignation, to soften it by perfect confidence in GOD, and to arrive at a sincere contempt for worldly goods, for it is by the contempt for worldly goods that one reaches heavenly riches.” (Dom Bernard Maréchaux)

Excerpt from “The Glories of Saint Joseph”
Published by Traditions Monastiques

Inner Life of St. Joseph

In the house of Nazareth there was a wonderful atmosphere of silence, of peace – no frenzied one. Great evenness of spirit accompanied Joseph affecting anything he did. Quietly, in silence, turned inward (without being unfriendly), his personality revealed his so engaging and pleasant character. Everything he did, he accomplished with great devotion. His work was wrapped in an inner, silent conversation with GOD.

After all, St. Joseph was in permanent contact with the great secret, the Redeemer, living under his roof. What had been hidden from man from eternity, GOD revealed – entrusted to him – he was allowed to look after, cherish and tend to – he was allowed to provide the SON of GOD with food and clothing. This indescribable secret was so overwhelming for St. Joseph that he could grasp and digest it only little by little, in silence, quietly, in the depth of his soul. Mary and JESUS gradually disclosed this wonderful and incomprehensible event to him, at the same time GOD’s grace filled