



Let us ask St. Joseph for his help, his protection. He is really familiar with happiness and joy, worries and needs. Let us ask him for the families, for unity, peace and love towards one another. Let us tell him to be close to the families when they are virtually weighed down by worries and that he may bless them every day, so that they may truly live as Christian families.

He takes care that our sacrifices and prayers are not in vain and that they may be of benefit to others, too. In this way we participate in JESUS CHRIST's work of salvation.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Today we are living in a time that urges us to keep St. Joseph before our eyes as a model and to invoke him as an intercessor. He can bring the world unspeakably many things. Let us ask him with a confident heart for moral maturity and protection!



„No one lives just for himself on this earth, we also live for all the others – like siblings of a family. And no matter what happens, changes or manifests itself, let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass. GOD never changes. Patience will achieve everything. He who has GOD lacks nothing. GOD alone suffices.“ (St. Theresa of Avila)

In thoughts, together with kind regards and with the blessing of St. Joseph, I remain,

Sister Paula



June 2016

Lay Community of St Joseph

Mary Suffered Bitterly at Joseph's Death

JESUS says: „I exhort all wives who are tortured by pain, to imitate Mary in her widowhood: to be united to JESUS.

Those who think that Mary's heart did not suffer any afflictions are mistaken. My Mother did suffer. Let that be known. She suffered in a holy way, because everything in her was holy, but she suffered bitterly.

Those who think that Mary did not love Joseph deeply, only because he was the spouse of her soul and not of her flesh, are also mistaken. Mary did love Joseph, to whom she devoted thirty years of faithful life, deeply. Joseph was her father, her spouse, her brother, her friend, her protector.

Now she felt as lonely as the shoot of a vine sawed off from the tree which nurtured it. It was as if her house had been struck by thunder. It was splitting. Before it was a unit in which the members supported one another. Now the main wall was missing as it were; that was the first blow to the Family and a sign of the impending parting of her beloved JESUS. The will of the Eternal One, who had asked her to be a spouse and a Mother, was

now imposing widowhood and separation from her Child upon her. Mary utters, shedding tears, one of her most sublime remarks: "Yes." "Yes, LORD, let it be done to me according to Your word." And to have enough strength for that hour, she drew close to Me. Mary was always united to GOD, especially in the gravest hours of her life: in the Temple, when she was asked to marry, and at Nazareth when she was called to maternity; again at Nazareth when, with tears in her eyes, widowhood was imposed on her; at Nazareth in the dreadful separation of her SON; on Calvary in the torture of seeing Me dying.

Learn from her, you who are crying, and learn, you who are dying! Learn, you who are living to die. Endeavour to deserve the consoling words I said to Joseph. They will be your peace in the struggle of death. Learn, you who are bound to die, to deserve to have JESUS near you as your comfort. And if you have not deserved it, dare just the same, and call Me near you. I will come, with My hands full of graces and consolation, My Heart full of forgiveness and love, My lips full of words of forgiveness and encouragement.

Death loses its bitterness if it takes place between My arms. Believe Me! I cannot prevent death, but I can ease death for all those who die trusting in Me.

CHRIST on the Cross said on behalf of you all: „LORD, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.“ He said that in His agony, thinking of your agonies, your terrors, your errors, your fears, your desire for forgiveness. He said it with His Heart pierced by extreme torture, before being pierced by the lance, a



torture that was more spiritual than physical, so that the agonies of those who die thinking of Me might be relieved by the LORD and their spirits might pass from death to eternal life, from sorrow to joy everlasting."

Excerpt from the "The Man-GOD" by Maria Valtorta

St. Joseph, the Great Helper of Families

In so many families there are quarrels, worries and needs. St. Joseph is such a great helper. He can solve crucial problems. Just as he was the father of the Holy Family, he also wants to be the father of our families. Come what may, he wants to protect them exactly as he once did with his Holy Family. He wants the family members to treat one another with love and consideration, to show mutual understanding, to be silent at the right moment, weighing their words so as not to hurt one another.

St. Joseph wants to help us cope with crises. After all, he knows the families' worries and problems that often go to the limits of their strength. St. Joseph truly went through all these problems himself. Just think about the flight to Egypt. Often the Holy Family had hardly anything to eat for days being in suspense of what awaited them in Egypt. – Dire poverty awaited them in Egypt! St. Joseph also knows about the serious worries about the children, young and old. Let us picture the terrible fears of Joseph and Mary when they were searching for JESUS for three days before they found Him in the temple. The Holy Family shows us that family life also constantly requires great sacrifices and renunciations.