



to the banks of the Rhone, then it stepped back and galloped off with me. For the first time in my life I could not control it.“ – „Well, Providence has led you here.“ – „What is Providence?“ – „It is the hand of GOD that has worked here. This hand has guided you here, because GOD wants to save you. Have you been baptised? GOD does not want you to die a heathen. Not in the Rhone, but in the water of grace are you to be submerged. – I never go into the garden at this hour of the day. I feel sorry for you with all my soul.“ I effusively hugged him. (To be continued next month)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- To endure all unpleasant events for the love of GOD as an opportunity to be a spiritual support for those people who are forced to leave their homes because of war and acts of terror.



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

*Sister Paula*



October 2016

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Joseph, the One Blessed by Divine Graces

Mary says: „The infancy, childhood, adolescence and youth of my SON are only briefly mentioned in the vast picture of His life as described in the Gospels. There He is the Master. Here He is the Man. He is the GOD who humiliates Himself out of love for man. And He works miracles despite His self-denial in the humility of a common life.

He works them in me, because I feel that my soul reaches perfection by the contact with my SON, who is growing in my womb. He works them in the house of Zacharias by sanctifying the Baptist, by helping the labour of Elizabeth and by giving speech and faith back to Zacharias. He works them in Joseph by opening his spirit to the light of such a sublime truth which he could not have understood by himself, although he was just. And after me, Joseph is the most blessed by this shower of divine grace. Consider how much spiritual progress he had to make from his arrival at my home to the moment of the flight into Egypt! ...

By successive steps, he acquires faith in CHRIST and he relies so securely on that faith that he trusts GOD completely. At the beginning of the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem he even says: „What will happen to us?“ This question which reveals the whole man with his human fears and human worries passes on to hope. In the grotto, before the birth, he says: „It will surely be better tomorrow.“ JESUS, who is approaching, already strengthens in him this hope which is one of the most magnificent gifts of GOD. And from this hope, when he is sanctified by the contact with JESUS, he progresses on to daring. He always wanted to be guided by me because of the venerable respect he felt for me. Now he manages himself both spiritual and material matters, and as head of the Family, he decides when there is a decision to be taken. Not only this: In the painful hour of our flight, after months of union with the divine SON who had filled him with holiness, it is he who comforts my affliction and says to me: „Even if we should have nothing else, we shall always have everything, because we shall have Him.“

Excerpt from “The Man-GOD” by Maria Valtorta

### „Do You Have any Idea who St. Joseph Is?“

Continued: This odd person then gave the following account: „I have never known my father in my whole life. When I was seven years old I lost my mother: she was dead one evening. They took her out of my home in a procession. Previously a priest had already come into the house with children dressed



in red. They wore a little priestly cap and on a sort of red robe they wore some sort of a lace shirt. I was very shocked, but then I was told that they had come to administer the Holy Communion to my mother. I took the little money that I found at my mother’s place and went to a nearby circus. I now was all alone, having neither relatives nor friends. So I asked the director of the circus if he needed me. „You are still young. Tell your father ...“ – „I do not have one.“ – „Your mother ...“ – „We buried her today.“ – „Where do you live?“ I told him. „Come back tomorrow!“

I went to him and he received me into the company. He treated me like his own son and, at his death, he left the circus to me. I travelled around everywhere and I earned a lot of money. But for some time something is gnawing at me. I do not know what it is: „I am extremely unhappy and I want to drown myself.“ – „Are you religious?“ – „I do not know what it is.“ – „Do you believe in GOD?“ – „Yes, somehow, but I do not really know what it is.“ – „Can you make the sign of the Cross?“ – „My mother did and made me also do it. But I have not made it ever since. She also taught me a particular prayer that I had to say every night. I will recite it to you right now.“ And he said the “Hail Joseph!”

„Do you still pray every now and then?“ – „I have never failed to say it before I went to bed.“ – „Do you have any idea who St. Joseph is?“ – „No.“ – „And why are you so unhappy?“ – „Well, I do not know really. Discomfort, I loathe everything, I began to loathe even my own life. I rode my horse