



amazed. „Did I not help you with my many prayers, alms, and so on, which I have always carried out for you and still do?“

Then his father said: „Know, my son, that all the good you have done and still do, has helped neither you nor me, because you have performed it in a state of mortal sin, since all your confessions were invalid every time, because each time you lacked the necessary pain of contrition. The dear GOD has mercifully permitted me to tell you this for my benefit as well as your self-knowledge.“

After this apparition his son mended his ways, and truly contritely confessed his sins, and soon after he saved his father from Purgatory by his good works.

Excerpt from “Sie kamen aus dem Feuer”
“They Came Out from the Fire”

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us pray to St. Joseph for a good preparation of all the dying; that we may all die in the state of grace; that we may live our lives today as though he were coming to pick us up in the evening.



With love and best wishes for everyone and I am with you in my thoughts and with the blessing of St. Joseph. Cordially yours,

Paula Schneider



November 2016

Lay Community of St Joseph

St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying

Death – a topic no longer spoken about, neither in sermons nor in daily life, it might only be found in detective stories leading to the desensitisation and brutalisation of many people.

But as to actual death, which concerns all human beings, a strong attempt is made to ignore it, if possible to forget it. A lot of people live their lives as if they would never have to die. Life does not add up in many ways. Man is struck with blindness and sin, lukewarmness, hardheartedness, comfort, and loss of immeasurable graces. They live their lives as if the good times would never end and as if they could enjoy it to their heart's content. „Why should I die, since I am so healthy and full of energy?“

„Nothing is as important as death,“ St. Alphonsus Liguori writes. „Because our stay in Eternity does depend on the moment of our death. I myself am to decide: beatitude or damnation.“

Much grace has to be obtained by prayer in order for you to have everything straightened out at the last moment.

If my conscience sends me a reminder to mend my ways, I should do so right now, because they are moments of grace. So quickly can it be too late! –

Let us bear the end in mind – it will come, as sure as I live, as sure as CHRIST is risen and has gone ahead of us to the FATHER!

The spirit of the world directs and manipulates man to the point of being able and obliged to enjoy life and profit from it as best he can – without playing second fiddle in society, after all, he could risk losing an emerald from his crown.

St. Joseph took absolutely no interest in all these things and he was a highly respected man in his simplicity, plainness, modesty, in his honest and accurate way of working. So many virtues could be listed here. A great virtue during his lifetime, from his childhood up, was his praying and struggling for hours on end for the dying who had gone astray. It was not without reason that JESUS CHRIST appointed St. Joseph Patron of the dying. His intercessions have an immeasurable strength and his foster Son does not deny Him any request.

Let us, too, also on behalf of all the dying, pray to St. Joseph for a good death, that he may come and meet us with Mary. Let us ask him to prepare us for it during our lives. He will do it, and on a daily basis, so that our death will always be before our eyes and we will also avoid sin on that account.



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

Continued: „Tonight you will eat and sleep with us and tomorrow you will not leave at once.“ He stayed for three days. I taught him the basic truths. He was very intelligent and GOD had showed him that neither pleasure nor wealth will give true happiness. He went to Confession and received Holy Communion. I sent him away against his will. He arrived in Avignon a completely different person and became a monk. Still quite young and unknown, he died a saintlike death. –

That is the story as reported by Abbot Father John Leonard. We see how much a soul owes to St. Joseph. He prayed to him faithfully without really understanding the meaning of the words. If we suddenly have to make a decision, we should never grumble against divine Providence, no matter how great the difficulties may be. At these moments we do not want to forget that St. Joseph is standing beside us.

No Fewer than 32 Years in Purgatory without the Help of His Son

A dying father ordered his son to diligently remember him after his death. The latter did so, prayed a lot for the repose of his father and was constantly doing other good works. After 32 years, however, his poor father appeared to him, all engulfed in flames, and bitterly complained about him that he had not provided him any comfort in his terrible agony for so many years. „What do you mean?“ his son asked