



in every situation, a tranquil, well-thought-out judgement in order to be able to remain just.

It does not escape Joseph's notice that Mary is transfigured by a very supernatural consecration, and that she is fully immersed in GOD. She is pure, is holy, and her whole being is purest truth. He cannot but admire her even much more, look up to her with even far greater awe. When the Angel brings Joseph assurance, his answer is as noble-minded and definite as Mary's was. Up to now he had great respect for her. But now she will become to him in a perfect way that which is meant by the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Mary.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- The birthday of our LORD is the birthday of peace. Let us take this peace to the needy people in this world, no matter in what form!



The care with which we make preparations for Christmas in order to make everybody feel happy and to let everything shine and sparkle, may lead us first of all to prepare our hearts to meet the SON of GOD, who like a poor and naked Child lies in a manger. – He, the true Light that shines in the darkness and has come to save us.

With loving Christmas greetings and the blessing of Saint Joseph from Bethlehem,

Sister Paula



December 2016

Lay Community of St Joseph



The Birth of Tenderness

*At Yuletide lay the little Child
in His manger in the stable,
in bliss He pressed His little hands
to His lips as tight as able.
To the people then He threw –
to the donkey, cow, and ewe –
His smile and kiss with flavour
surpassing Christmas pie in savour.
Cold season's wind did hear
about Christmas's saving morn.
It took it forth – both far and near
no man's ever since felt forlorn,
because tenderness over here,
the heavenly one, was born.*

(Elli Michler)

Betrothed to Mary

Since Joseph met Mary, his life had become much more beautiful and blessed. It was as if Heaven had come so close that you could almost touch it, as if the whole purpose of life was nothing else but to glorify GOD as perfectly as possible. Mary's modest and withdrawn nature may have hardly made an impression on other, more shallow and superficial people. Because they completely failed to see how entirely devoted she was to GOD, how entirely filled with GOD. People, who carelessly go past an inconspicuous little flower at the side of the road, unwilling to understand this charming greeting of GOD, surely neither will they consider it worthwhile to pay any special attention to the humble Virgin of Nazareth.

Joseph, a chaste and spiritually soaring man himself, is deeply moved by her quiet, plain nature – moved, considering how pure and pristine, how consecrated to GOD her virginity is, since the day he met her, yes, since the day he was allowed to draw nearer to her. It is a soul entirely GOD's own, not following her own plans, but who from the very beginning always chooses to do only what GOD has in mind for her. Of course, grace builds on nature, and Joseph, too, is a man with common sense for sure. But in order to be able to recognise Mary more deeply and to feel one's way in the indescribably tender wonder-world of her GOD-filled soul, a deep and genuine piety is necessary, and Joseph was blessed with it. It is true, Mary is immeasurably ahead of him on the way to GOD. And yet she is so near to him. With a fervent heart he thanks the kind FATHER in Heaven, who had introduced him to such a soul.



Mary stands before the Priest together with Joseph and gives a pledge, which unites her with Joseph as strongly as our "I do" in marriage. With the vow in her heart she trusts in GOD. She does not anticipate GOD's decision and bravely ventures on everything GOD gives her to understand as His holy will. And she is right in the end. Joseph is the worthy instrument in GOD's hand to fully justify such an enterprise of Mary. As her purest love, so also is his love filled with GOD, transfigured and sanctified by GOD to such an extent that he, too, seeks the one only thing in marriage, to fulfil GOD's holy will as faithfully as possible. This holy bond will one day be for both of them, rather for all humanity a source of richest blessing. We may be fully convinced that Joseph and Mary in their virgin and consecrated love have been by far the happiest married couple on earth.

Heavy Trial and Momentous Decision

Mary is staying with her aunt Elizabeth for three months. When she comes back to stay in Nazareth, Joseph can hardly believe his eyes seeing Mary as an expectant mother. It is the moment when Joseph has to take his test of maturity before being elected by GOD. Mary must have understood his questioning look and does not speak. She does not speak, because such a message having been given to her from Heaven is meant to be a most blessed Heaven-sent grace for him, too. Mary stays close to Joseph's trials and prays for him. He amazingly keeps himself under control, which sets him apart with regard to high virtues. Only a person who is able to completely contain himself with an iron will, will keep a clear eye