



disappointed and sneered at by his neighbours. He asked for nothing but to believe in me, because, being honest, it was painful for him to think that other people were not honest. He lived according to the Law and the Law says: „Love your neighbour as you love yourself.“ We love ourselves so much that we think we are perfect even when we are not. Can we, therefore, not love our neighbour simply because we think he is faulty?“

Excerpt from “The Poem of the Man-GOD”
by Maria Valtorta

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, You know what it is to suffer want – please remember all the needy families! Help the fathers to find suitable work!“

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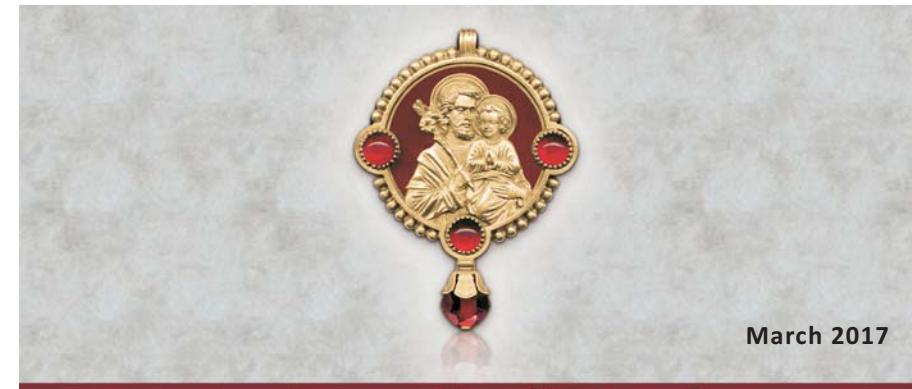
May our Community please support in prayer those members who have very great worries. Let us also keep supporting one another.

With the highly consecrated Medal you can also make the sign of cross on yourself by saying: „Yours in life, Yours in death. Amen!“

„Virtues have the characteristic of hiding themselves from the person who possesses them.“ (St. Teresa of Avila)

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

Sister Paula



March 2017

Lay Community of St Joseph

St. Joseph's Pain

Words of Mary: „Who can truly tell Joseph's pain, the confusion of his feelings? Like a little boat caught in a great storm, he was in a whirl of conflicting thoughts, in a turmoil of painful and cruel reflections, of which one was more piercing than the other.

He was, to all appearances, a man betrayed by his wife. He saw his good reputation and the esteem of his world collapse around him; because of her he saw scornful fingers pointed at himself and felt pitied by the village people. Above all, he perceived that his love and esteem for me had fallen, struck to death, before the obviousness of a deed.

In this respect, his holiness shines brighter than mine. And I give this witness with the affection of a spouse, because I want you to love my Joseph, this wise and prudent, this patient and good man, who is not separated from the mystery of Redemption, on the contrary, he is intimately connected to it, because he suffered for the mystery, consuming himself in sorrow for it, saving your Saviour at the cost of his own sacrifice on account of his holiness. Had he been less holy, he would have acted in

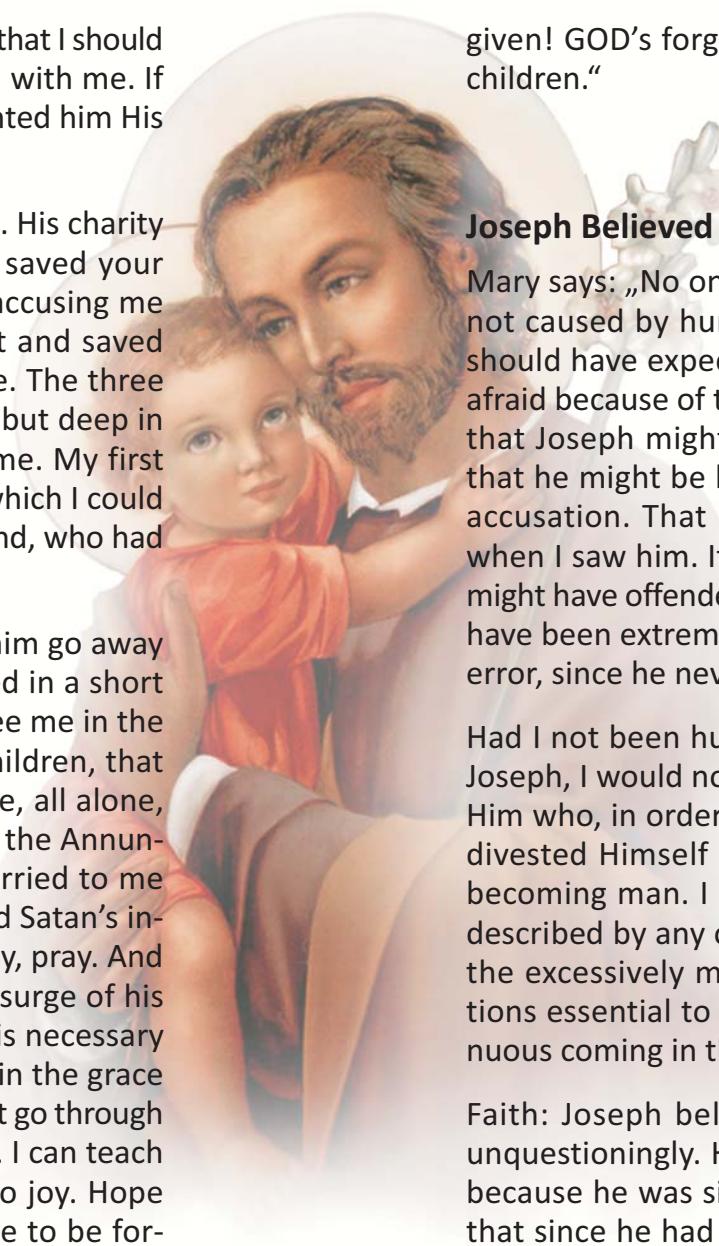
a human way, denouncing me as an adulteress so that I should be stoned, and the fruit of my sin should perish with me. If he had been less holy, GOD would not have granted him His light as guidance in his trial.

But Joseph was holy. His pure spirit lived in GOD. His charity was ardent and strong. And out of charity he saved your Saviour for you, both when he refrained from accusing me to the elders, and when he led JESUS to Egypt and saved Him, leaving everything with prompt obedience. The three days of Joseph's passion were short in number, but deep in intensity. And they were tremendous also for me. My first passion. Although I was aware of his suffering, which I could not alleviate, in fact I had to obey GOD's command, who had said to me: ,Be silent!'

And when, after we arrived in Nazareth, I saw him go away with a brief goodbye, and bent as if he had aged in a short time, and I noticed that he no longer came to see me in the evening as he used to do, then I tell you, my children, that my heart wept very bitterly. Closed in my house, all alone, in the house where everything reminded me of the Annunciation and the Incarnation, and of Joseph, married to me with spotless virginity, I had to resist despair and Satan's insinuations, and hope, hope, hope. And pray, pray, pray. And forgive, forgive, forgive Joseph's suspicion, the surge of his seemingly justified indignation. My children, it is necessary to hope, to pray, and to forgive in order to obtain the grace of GOD's intervention in our favour. You, too, must go through your passions. You deserve them with your sins. I can teach you how to overcome them and turn them into joy. Hope beyond measure! Pray with confidence! Forgive to be for-

given! GOD's forgiveness will be the peace you desire, my children."

Excerpt from "The Poem of the Man-GOD"
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Joseph Believed the Heavenly Message

Mary says: „No one must interpret my paleness wrong. It is not caused by human fear. From a human point of view, I should have expected to be stoned to death, but I was not afraid because of that. ... Neither was I upset by the thought that Joseph might accuse me. I was only sorry and afraid that he might be lacking in charity if he should insist in his accusation. That is why all my blood rushed to my heart when I saw him. It was the moment when even a just man might have offended Justice by offending charity. And I would have been extremely upset if a just man were to commit an error, since he never erred.

Had I not been humble to the very extreme limit, as I told Joseph, I would not have been worthy of bearing within me Him who, in order to blot out the pride of the human race, divested Himself of Himself: GOD – to the humiliation of becoming man. I have shown you that scene which is not described by any of the Gospels, because I wanted to draw the excessively misguided attention of men to the conditions essential to please GOD and to experience His continuous coming in the souls.

Faith: Joseph believed the heavenly messenger's words unquestioningly. He asked GOD for nothing but to believe, because he was sincerely convinced that GOD is good and that since he had hoped in the LORD, the LORD would not have reserved for him the torture of being betrayed,