



Therefore, if we have only a little faith in St. Joseph, he will give us the opportunity to grow in all kinds of virtues, but quite particularly in the purity of body and spirit. He will train us in humility, endurance and courage. The life of virtue allows us to be victorious over our enemies.“

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- This month, let us quite particularly remember all those people who are so deeply hurt in their soul and hardly have anybody to comfort them.



During his life, St. Joseph accepted everything with composure and great confidence, seriously considering everything nonetheless. He did not defend himself or question matters. Let us cherish an intimate relationship with him and he will lead us through all turmoil, trouble and trial and stand by us. May he by his pleas obtain for us the necessary grace and devotion to daily unite everything with the cross of JESUS CHRIST and His immeasurable merits and Mary's.

Together with kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Sister Paula



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Lay Community of St Joseph

Suffering of the Innocent

Contemplating the life of St. Joseph, he is also one of the innocent. How much was he burdened with worries, fears, pains, trials and tribulations, heat, cold, poverty, hunger, how much did he suffer from not being able to provide his holy Family with the necessities of life. He lived in constant fear of not recognising and carrying out GOD's will in everything. He put up with slander, boundless insults and blows of evil persons, constantly enduring strong temptations of the evil spirits. What great sorrow must have plagued him day after day to see and to know that people do not recognise GOD's SON. Realising that his SON would go through a bitter passion and death, he could not be cheerful in his heart, although he had a good word and a kindly smile for all who met him, and so on. – His life and suffering, his great desolation at his death, all those things took a great deal off the bitter suffering of his JESUS – it also was an atoning mission for the benefit of mankind. Let us also think about his holy Spouse – the Co-Redemptrix, and St. John the Baptist.

Making reparation for other people has something to do with love. Atonement is the call to that love by helping to carry somebody else's burden and guilt. We should bear one another's burdens. – As a matter of fact, atonement is the call by GOD who says to us: „Bear with patience the cross that others have imposed on you.“ After all, JESUS did not suffer because of His own sins. But today, millions of people are suffering as a consequence of someone else's sins, refugees, orphans, women widowed by war, illegitimate children. Millions of people are enduring a cross through no fault of their own: children, seriously ill through hereditary traits – children with childhood experiences which will cause deep, lifelong wounds in their souls. Many people have sinned against them.

JESUS has truly borne the sins of the world. He who was without sin. That is atonement – reparation – reconciliation. If GOD wants us to offer up to Him our suffering, cross, everyday drudgery, and worries for other people's sins, He has bestowed on us a great vocation to love. We join Him on the Way of the Cross bearing with Him together the cross for many – like Simon of Cyrene. That is the greatest act of love in the world, don't you think?

JESUS, Mary and Joseph also suffered for our present time. Their merits are enough even up to the last human being and through their merits the world is able to continue to exist and function to this very day. Through their merits, innocent people draw the strength to put up with injustice. They are starving whereas others live in luxury, are being oppressed because others are more brutal and elbow their way through, because others unscrupulously exploit and

ill-treat people. We learn from St. Joseph how to participate in the redemptive suffering of CHRIST.

Pope John Paul II said: „Countless people who suffer innocently are called and destined by GOD to make reparation, and in this way CHRIST has raised human suffering to the level of Redemption. Therefore, through his suffering every human being can also participate in the redemptive suffering of CHRIST.“ And one day he will be where GOD wants him to be. St. Joseph has definitely reached the place where his foster Son wanted him to be.

Has St. Joseph risen from the dead? Is he in Heaven body and soul? Let us take the answer of St. Frances of Sales. Of course, it is not a matter of dogma here, but of the beliefs of many great Saints. Which means: „In Heaven this glorious Saint has a lot of influence on the one who stimulated him and took him Heavenwards body and soul. This is the more likely since we do not have any relics of him here on earth, and, in my opinion, no one can doubt this truth. How could He, who was so obedient to him during His life on earth, have refused to grant him this grace?

When JESUS, after His Resurrection, went to the numerous people waiting at the gates of Heaven, He will surely have said to His beloved nursing Father Joseph: ‚You welcomed Me in your house, in your Family, when I came down on the earth from Heaven. Now I also welcome you at My place. You carried Me in your arms – now I will take you in Mine. And as you took care of nurturing and guiding Me during My life on earth, so now I will take you up and lead you to eternal life.‘

