



His heart is struck with deep grief: The child is nowhere to be found! He and Mary did not sleep a wink for two nights. In this exceedingly painful search they both did not lose their bearings. The bitterest pain must be completely consecrated to GOD. Joseph, too, remains strong, the strong-minded Joseph! – When JESUS is finally found in the Temple, Joseph, too, is allowed to witness with astonishment how the divine Boy appears in public for the first time with divine dignity while saying the following words to them: „Did you not know that I had to be in my FATHER’s house?“

Thoughts from “Saint Joseph” by P. Odilo

### This Month’s Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, You intercessor of the Poor Souls, comfort them in their sadness and do You lead them to the approaching vision of GOD, we pray You!“



In honour of St. Joseph we may want to cherish great confidence in him – in his fatherly kindness. Do we really entrust all our worries to him?

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

*Paula*



November 2017

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Thanks to St. Joseph

„Great Saint Joseph, I would like to thank You for all the benefits which You do not cease to shower on me. I will never be able to thank You enough for Your great deeds here on earth, with which You filled up the treasure chest of Heaven! Each day You lavish kindnesses on me. I do not manage to give an account of all the things You ask for with Your Foster Son in my favour. However, I do know that You love me boundlessly and that You provide me with everything I need according to the good pleasure of GOD’s will.

You obtain for me many and great joys, even if they often end in suffering and worries. May my life be a song of thanksgiving to You swinging itself to Your heart. Help me, Saint Joseph, to persevere in it and to keep up my good spirits in troubles and sacrifices.

While I am waiting for the moment to say “thank You” face to face, I will do my utmost to enhance Your joy in Heaven and one day the great triumph here on earth. I will not cease to put into Your heart all those entrusted to me so that we may all meet again in Eternity. Thank

You for everything, Father Joseph – I give You my heart in return.”

Joseph is the Saint of Saints, the faithful one amongst the faithful ones. He is full of humility, meekness and most pure of heart, which is all patience, love and readiness. From divine lips he was addressed as “Father” and consequently he is the head of the Holy Family. GOD has given him all the power to make the impossible possible. With this in mind we can recommend quite particularly all the Poor Souls to him this month, especially the most abandoned souls of priests.

Let us ask GOD that He, from His inexhaustible divine bounty, may bestow on St. Joseph the deepest and most blissful enrichment and joy which St. Joseph in his generosity will surely pass on to the Poor Souls.

### **Concern about People**

How many worries and hardships has St. Joseph been through for the sake of the people! Let us lend our ears to how he coped with everyday life:

He happily sacrificed himself in a peaceful harmony and full consent with Mary in his concern for the incarnate Redeemer. His work filled him with holy enthusiasm. He turned all his earthly work at the carpenter’s bench, his entire craftsmanship into an extremely holy act. In order to provide a livelihood for the divine Child and His Mother, nothing was too troublesome for him, no privation too great, no disappointment too bitter.

For his little Family he did everything out of pure love and devotion. That is the reason why he was not put off by the great difficulties in the stable of Bethlehem, the extremely great troubles and dangers of the flight into Egypt as well as the great sacrifices and fears for his Family in a foreign country. The devil greatly tormented Joseph and often drove him to great anxiety that his Spouse and the Child would be kidnapped. He could often hardly wait for the evening to come in order to go home and make sure that nothing had happened to them. He undertook everything to somehow make their lives bearable there. Also for Mary it was a matter of course to have a caring eye on Joseph in order to unburden him of sacrifices and, with her kind heart of a mother, to give him relief as discreetly as possible. Apart from the great joy of returning home to Nazareth to the verdurous Galilee, worries were loyal companions, the strain of the long and tiring journey for the Mother and Child, heat, cold, lack of water and food, various great dangers, and so on. Heaven accompanied them. In Nazareth they quietly lived their daily lives and celebrated the holy feasts, and each lived for the other – in joy and sorrow.

Both Mary and Joseph had an open eye and a very open heart for the divine Child, because this Child was, indeed, a constant revelation to them. At the same time, Joseph was continually doubly schooled: Not only does he learn from the divine Child, but also from His Mother. Mary explains to Joseph a lot about the unfathomable mysteries of GOD – after all, JESUS is the second divine Person! In this way, Joseph’s soul is growing and ever greater and more powerful is his forthcoming immense task which he still has to complete before he will enter Heaven.

