



He was prematurely independent, not submitting to sin thoughtlessly. Nor would he submit when the common opinion of good and evil had already shifted alarmingly and had swerved from the truth. Especially in Jerusalem, Joseph could check out for himself how far the people and their leaders had already turned away from GOD's Spirit. Seeing these saddening issues, he was inflamed by a holy zeal for making reparation for the offences against the FATHER in Heaven. He would certainly have done his best to make amends through prayer and penance. His Foster Son JESUS would do the same in a perfect way.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, ask JESUS to grant us the grace of imitating Your virtues.“



Whoever discovers the actual treasure of life, to him the other things become of secondary importance. The simple life makes room for the imperishable treasure. If we are content with little and live a simpler life, we will have more time to think about GOD.

With kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Sister Paula



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Lay Community of St Joseph

St. Joseph's Humility

JESUS speaks about the visit of the Three Wise Men: „Consider the behaviour of Joseph, who knows how to keep 'his' place as the Guardian of purity and holiness. He did not act as the usurper of his rights. It is Mary with her JESUS who receives the homage and greeting. Joseph rejoices inwardly because of her and does not grieve because he is a secondary figure. Joseph is just; he is the Just Man. And he is always just. Also at the present moment. The fumes of the feast do not go to his head. He remains humble and just. He is happy for the gifts. Not for himself, but because he thinks that with them he will be able to make his Spouse's and the sweet Child's lives more comfortable. There is no greed in Joseph. He is a workman and will continue to work, he is anxious that 'they', his two loves, should be more comfortable. Neither he nor the Magi know that those gifts serve for a flight and a life in exile, where possessions and riches vanish like clouds scattered by winds, as well as for their return to their home country, where they have lost everything, customers and household furnishings, and where only the bare walls of their house have remained,

which were protected by GOD, because there He was united to the Virgin and became Flesh.

Joseph, the Guardian of GOD and of His Mother, Spouse of the Most High, is so humble. He is a poor carpenter because sustained human pressures have deprived David's heirs of their royal rights and riches. But he is always the offspring of a king, and has the manners of a king. Also of him it must be said: „He was humble, because he was truly great.“

Joseph, an Instrument in GOD's Hand

He comes across to us in Sacred Scripture as a man with a very high moral maturity. He does not act rashly, thinks carefully about everything before taking great decisions and holds incorruptibly firm to his duty, even if it costs him great sacrifices. He appears to us as a disciplined man whose passions must obey him unconditionally. Before taking action, he prays and allows it to mature in prayer. Even though he was greatly privileged by GOD with regard to his high mission, such virtues can, however, only be achieved by a long-standing, tough and persistent struggle and pursuit, in which his young life will certainly not have been wanting.

Joseph, too, was born with original sin. The boy was circumcised after eight days and they gave him the name Joseph. During this ceremony, GOD gave him the faculty of reason and the freedom from original sin. GOD's marvellous gifts could freely unfold in him.

His parents lived in a GOD-pleasing manner, were a great example of a life of virtue to their child Joseph. His father Jacob was from Nazareth, his mother from Bethlehem. Both descended from the family of David. After their marriage, they lived their whole life in Nazareth leading a holy life. An Angel announced to them that this child would associate with the longed-for Messiah. The parents were very happy and they had to be careful not to reveal this message to their child. Therefore, they brought Joseph up with great love and care. In early youth, Joseph was tortured by the Evil One with temptations and doubts. Joseph put up with this situation patiently and devotedly, until GOD came to his aid.

Joseph was descended from an impoverished line of the royal family of David. His high descent shows that in his family the tradition of the coming of the Messiah was fondly cherished, so that Joseph was initiated into the teachings about the Messiah at an early age and for a long time. Joseph excelled far beyond the Jews of his time and presents himself to us as significantly more mature than the Apostles, who even after being extensively taught by JESUS were still waiting for a worldly Messianic kingdom while missing many things JESUS had clearly told them. His being ever so highly privileged would alone not have been enough to fulfil his task if GOD's gifts had been neglected. We can be absolutely sure that Joseph's love and gratefulness towards the Heavenly FATHER has been great even in childhood, and also towards his parents.

