



Joseph, do bring him back to GOD, do not allow him to perish!" Welcoming my parents after dinner, my father said: „I would like to talk to you alone.“ He said: „Last night I had a dream. I had to unload a waggon and I could not manage. Then you came and helped me.“ My answer: „Father, think about the meaning of it.“ – „I know, I have to sort out my religious life. In the following days you will receive the happy message.“ My father went to holy Confession. On top of that, he spent his old age in contentment and, reconciled to GOD, he departed this life. Saint Joseph has helped indeed! (Sr. M. Theresia, 1974)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, we put our trust in your ever powerful intercession with Your divine SON in favour of all families in distress and unemployed fathers. Thank you in advance, Father Joseph!“



Now I say goodbye again with best wishes! With heartfelt regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Sister Paula*



June 2018

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Highly Exalted in the Kingdom of Heaven

He is privileged to be spouse of Mary and nursing Father of the Child JESUS. After Mary, he is the greatest intercessor of Christians. The actual breakthrough of the veneration of St. Joseph is due to a Carmelite nun, the Doctor of the Church Saint Theresa of Avila. At the age of 26, she was cured from a severe paralysis and she ascribes this cure to St. Joseph's intercession. From that time onwards, she had an unshakable trust in his help and guidance in her life. Her words: „Up to this time I cannot remember having asked him for anything which he has not obtained for me.“ She dedicated her first convent to St. Joseph, as well as 11 additional convents of 18 foundations.

Together with St. Teresa we must mention another name bound up with the veneration of St. Joseph, namely the holy Bishop of Geneva, St. Francis of Sales (1567 - 1622). It recalls the fact that the greatness of a person is determined by the task entrusted to him by GOD. However, an extraordinary humility on the part of the recipient is also worthy of the great gifts of grace on the part of GOD. Joseph's humbleness, his submission to the divine will is

greater than that of every other creature, with the exception of Mary. Francis of Sales, too, placed the order which he had founded under the protection of St. Joseph and dedicated the first church of his native town Annecy in France to him.

The seclusion of St. Joseph is part of his true greatness. The Apostles were appointed to reveal the SON of GOD – St. Joseph, on the other hand, was called to conceal Him from the people. Only the hidden and silent Joseph was able to do so, again requiring a great humility and inwardness. Therefore, GOD exalted him so highly before men and made him the most worthy spouse of Mary and nursing Father of her SON. Let us pray to St. Joseph for the sake of his love of a bridegroom and his fatherly honour, which he enjoys forever in Heaven.

GOD the FATHER has put St. Joseph in charge of His house here on earth. JESUS, Mary, Joseph – an image of the Most Holy TRINITY as it were. Joseph as a nursing Father was the first to reveal to the world the name of the Messiah. One cannot think about the Holy Family in Nazareth, which suffered so much for CHRIST's sake, without saying thanks to St. Joseph for the blessings, the help, his care and love that he showered on Mary and JESUS. He did all great and little things with great love.

Joseph always remained the same, always loving, always peaceful and persevering in his humble submission to GOD's will, which he allowed to guide him. Because he was just, he always united his will with the divine one. May St. Joseph

help us all in this respect so that we, too, can patiently accept and bear the daily troubles, hardships and ailments. After all, all these things are accompanied by infinite merits and so rich in blessing. Let us put ourselves in the place of this silent Saint. Let us listen to what he wants to say to us.

### **„Saint Joseph, Do Bring Him Back to GOD!“**

My good father had not gone to church for 20 years. As a child I used to pray: „Dear GOD, please make my father pray again.“ When choosing a career I thought, if I take the veil and completely sacrifice my life for the conversion of my father, my heart's desire will finally come true. I entered, namely in the convent of the sisters of St. Joseph. After six months I was clothed in the novice's habit. On this occasion I invited my parents. My dear mum came, but my father did not. A bitter pill to swallow.

A year later, on 19 March 1925, I took the temporary vows for six years. Again, my father did not respond to my invitation. After three years I was given home leave for the first time. My father was very affectionate, but no word was exchanged about faith. I found it pointless. Just pray and sacrifice!

After six years – at the ceremony of taking the perpetual vows – again I asked my father quite fervently to make me happy this time and come to my celebration. On entering the church, I could not suppress my curiosity. There – at the church portal stood my parents! I prayed ardently: „Saint