



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, You terror of evil spirits, keep them away from our families! Please, do not allow a single soul to perish.“



All people have a great common mission, which we serve jointly, always with the gift bestowed by GOD. The gift is not an end in itself, but, as we have already heard from St. Joseph, a vocation of service to neighbour.

„Those are the strong ones: who laugh through their tears, hide their own worries and make other people happy.“ (Franz Grillparzer)

„Gratitude is the memory of the heart.“ (Proverb in France)

All who have their well-earned holiday ahead of them, I wish them a good rest!

With kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph, I remain united with you,

Sister Paula



July 2018

Lay Community of St Joseph

Spiritual Life

Saint Joseph stands for a spiritual life, whether he worked or prayed. In both activities he acted on GOD's behalf and always in His presence, with absolute devotion, with unquestioning obedience, with no ifs or buts. The great Teresa of Avila and so many great devotees of Joseph recommend St. Joseph as the great Patron of spiritual life. After all, he has a direct connection with JESUS and Mary. So he could really help us to also have a heartfelt and intimate relationship with them. They could indeed obtain for us a more sincere and tender love of GOD.

In order to develop your abilities in a community, it is important to always keep in mind the life of virtue of St. Joseph – in the family, at work, and so on. We all work daily in the LORD's vineyard and just want to make the best of it. We will only succeed if we acquire those virtues that led St. Joseph to the highest degree of perfection: love of GOD and neighbour, courage to resign ourselves to GOD's will, justice, silence and the joy to work in stillness without any fuss.

Working in stillness and in secret was part of St. Joseph's daily life – even today. He is in the background; and just as Mary and JESUS could fully rely on him, so we, too, may trust in him completely. His obedience and unconditional devotion to the heavenly messages, which the messenger of Heaven brought him, to take his Bride home because the Child is from the HOLY SPIRIT, the flight into Egypt, the difficult and dangerous journey home to Nazareth – everything shows the greatness and holiness of St. Joseph. His seclusion and his holy silence, his joyful discharge of duties in everything have enabled Mary and JESUS to live a happy and well-ordered life, a very modest and simple life. Never did the Holy Family put up appearances, except in holiness which shone forth from them. Only few people recognised this.

Joseph became the greatest lover and benefactor of the holy Persons. How selflessly and loyally, how reverently and caringly did he look after the Virgin Spouse and her Child. All roads and trails from Nazareth to Egypt and back, all nights and days can tell us an uplifting story about it. The Angels of Heaven saw the patience, the love of St. Joseph, his faith, his confidence and his worship, his joy and gratefulness when the pious shepherds and the Magi from the East came to visit them.

JESUS and Mary, yes GOD Himself, who had entrusted them to him, were and became indebted to him in this way. In eternal gratitude they will pay back their debt by their kind-hearted helpfulness towards all who love and venerate St. Joseph. „Saint Joseph, sitting enthroned on Your fatherly

seat of honour in Heaven, please give us Your blessing!“

Suddenly Desperation Left Him

It was in Parma. A young man was studying at the Jesuit College. He left college before graduating and, led astray by alluring companions, increasingly got caught in a debauched and wanton life. Finally he ended up as a volunteer in the Italian army. Through his intemperance and the stress and strain of army life he came down with a dangerous disease, which soon turned into an incurable tuberculosis of the lung. This burdened and worried his family very much, who had received him again after he had left the service.

His health deteriorated so rapidly that they thought it was advisable that the patient should be administered Extreme Unction. But who was to tell him and prepare him for it, since he was still confidently hoping for his healing even making plans for the future? Because his complaint deteriorated rapidly from day to day and destroyed his strength, he was thrown into despair.

The pastoral carer recommended him to turn to St. Joseph. No sooner had the patient heard the name of St. Joseph than all of a sudden the desperation left him. Confidence and calmness entered his soul and cheerfully he said: „Saint Joseph, how happy you make me with Your comfort. I thank You!“ Then he asked for the little St. Joseph's medal which he had once received at the college. He was administered Extreme Unction and focused his thoughts just only on his death. Now he resignedly accepted his pains as penance and atonement for his sins.