



wonderfully. – JESUS said goodbye to His Mother and started His teaching years. Nevertheless St. Joseph was always with them, watching over them.

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, we pray You, as far as You are able, lead the Church back to unity. You and Your Spouse with her divine SON are the best examples after all.“

• • •

It is certainly true that the power of St. Joseph includes all the needs that we can encounter here on earth. He knows how to make anything possible with his beloved JESUS, even what does not fit our brain, what seems impossible to us. In his glory and majesty he does not ignore our cries, he even perceives our most subtle thoughts. If only we had enough confidence! – Let us thank St. Joseph for his perpetual help, quite particularly for the help we cannot fathom.

With kindest regards and summer greetings I say goodbye again and as always with the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Sister Paula*



August 2018

### Lay Community of St Joseph

#### Contemplation

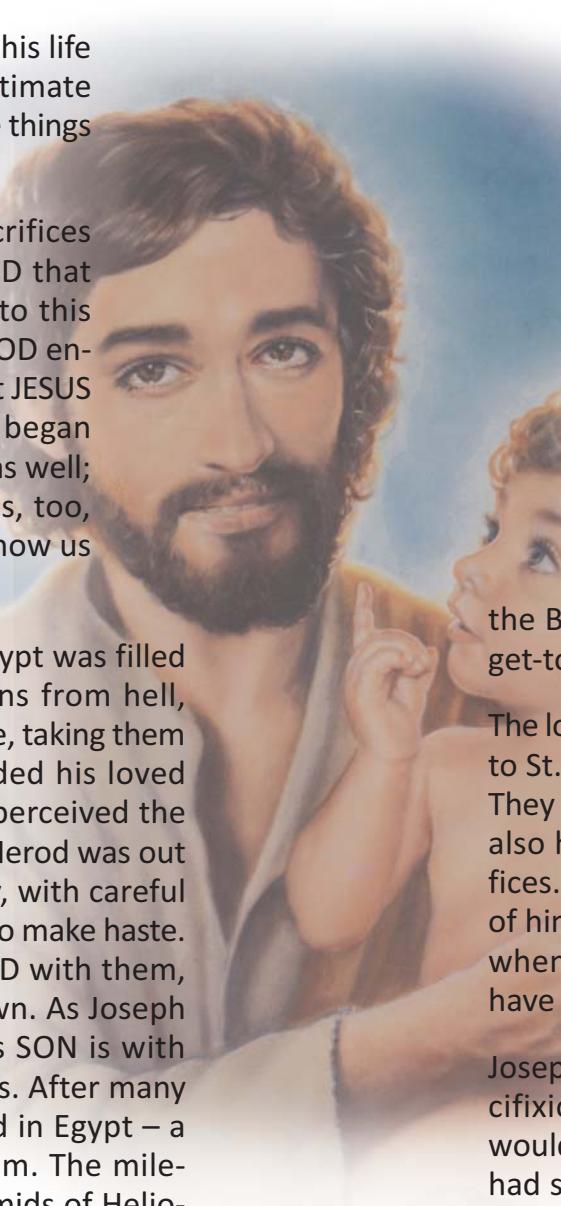
Privileged positions in GOD's kingdom are predetermined from eternity and have been carefully prepared. Thus, in the eternal plan of redemption, not only the sacred humanity of the SON of GOD stood before the eyes of GOD in full splendour, but also His wonderful Mother with her virgin Spouse, St. Joseph. In wise mildness and mild strength divine Providence guided their paths in such a way that the three holy Persons, also St. Joseph, were well equipped and ready for the greatest work of divine mercy at the right time.

The holy Virgin received the divine Child from the HOLY SPIRIT when her marriage was ensured by St. Joseph, her Spouse. St. Joseph was not initiated into the mystery of mysteries until he had noticed that Mary bore the signs of motherhood and he had shown his sense of virginity and willingness to be virginal. Only now, after having revealed his inner greatness, was he given the divine mission to be, before the law, Father to the wonderful Child of his wonderful Bride, provider and educator, representative of the FATHER in Heaven. And only now, when Joseph, in a heroic decision, was prepared to employ

everything, his physical and spiritual strength, his life in order to realise the divine plans, did the intimate family life begin at the house in Nazareth. These things we should take to heart.

How great, selfless and strong at making sacrifices must St. Joseph have been in the eyes of GOD that he of all young men in his time was elected to this highest office! How trustworthy he was that GOD entrusted to him His most beloved ones, the Infant JESUS and His Mother. In this hour of grace Joseph began to pray, to make sacrifices and to suffer for us as well; what he did for JESUS and Mary, he did for us, too, for the redemption of the world. He did not know us and yet he loved us through his deeds.

The time from Bethlehem to the flight into Egypt was filled with bliss, but not without many temptations from hell, which St. Joseph kept away from his holy Spouse, taking them upon himself. Even in his sleep he still guarded his loved ones with a watchful heart and immediately perceived the order of the Angel to flee into Egypt, because Herod was out to kill the Child. At once he acted composedly, with careful consideration and determination, asking Mary to make haste. With the awareness of having the SON of GOD with them, they set out for their journey into the unknown. As Joseph said: „What could probably go wrong, GOD’s SON is with us.“ A laden little donkey carried the essentials. After many weeks of hardship and privations they arrived in Egypt – a pagan country, not very friendly towards them. The milestones along the roads to Egypt and the pyramids of Heliopolis have bowed in awe when Joseph, in anxious worry over



Herodes, led the divine Child past them. The idol statues came falling down. How thankful was Joseph for the fortunate escape.

How much could he, despite all the great worries and daily attacks of the foe, be joyful about the first stammering and the first steps of the Child, which held such secrets. How pleased he was with every new little piece of clothing which the holy Mother weaved for Him from his earnings. The poverty in the years of exile was beyond all telling. – St. Joseph felt royally rewarded when he was able to lead Mother and Child back to the homeland. How much he had been longing for it. How much they suffered from homesickness. The years of childhood and the adolescence of the Boy JESUS went by so fast in prayer, work and a happy get-together like a blissful dream.

The loss and the search for the Boy JESUS in Jerusalem seemed to St. Joseph like heat lightning from the mysterious future. They gave him the conviction that not merely the Saviour but also his own must be prepared to make the greatest sacrifices. St. Joseph was prepared for anything GOD demanded of him. He was also prepared when his last hour had struck, when he was told: „Joseph, You have done Your duty, You have fulfilled GOD’s will. Come home to Your due glory!“

Joseph was fully aware of the horrible tortures and the Crucifixion of his JESUS and also that the most holy Mother would be Co-Redemptrix. All the years before his death he had suffered so much so that he kept losing weight and repeatedly fainted. Had he been still alive at the time of JESUS’ Crucifixion, he would not have survived. GOD ordained it so