



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- May St. Joseph defend the holy Church against all the attacks of the dark powers and spread his cloak of protection on all of us.



If we entrust ourselves to St. Joseph, he will show us the way to an intimate and active unity with JESUS CHRIST as well as with his most holy and virgin Spouse Mary. And so, in community with him and all the Saints of Heaven, also we shall and may once participate in the wonderful perfection.

„Saint Joseph, You provident Father, I pray You here and now on behalf of so many worried and distressed people in the Lay Community. Please help them in their affliction. Take all of them under Your perpetual protection. Let them feel that You are near them. Thank You, You great helper!“

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

*Paula Schneider*



September 2018

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### The Great Man

The Church venerates this Saint especially as Patron Saint. Who else could it be but St. Joseph, who had placed his life entirely in the service of GOD's plan. He surely had a proper idea of the life he wanted to lead together with his Spouse Mary as soon as he had taken her as his Bride. But these plans of life were integrated into the divine guidance of grace and into providence. Joseph and Mary loved each other, but their shared love was to be GOD's alone. And so they were receptive in everything to the plan of divine love. This readiness of St. Joseph and his virgin Bride resulted in many surprising changes in their lives. When Joseph of Nazareth noticed that Mary was expecting a child that was not his, he did not yet understand GOD's working. The Angel revealed to him in a dream that Mary had received her Child JESUS from the HOLY SPIRIT and that this JESUS will be the Redeemer of men.

Considering such a message, Joseph may have asked himself whether he is superfluous now. Not so, on the contrary: GOD Himself entrusted His SON to him. He was

to be a fatherly protector to Him. Nevertheless, the Infant JESUS, who only had one FATHER, the One in Heaven, would say "Father" to him on earth and love and obey him with a childlike love. What a wonderful harmony!

Joseph was to take the Virgin Mary as his Spouse in order to protect her in this very way. Joseph was to be a loving husband to her, bound to her in a true unity of heart, and he was to be a caring father for the Infant JESUS. St. Joseph fulfilled all this in a textbook manner. He was not a big talker, but a man of silent deeds, of exemplary service and total surrender to GOD's will.

We need the example of St. Joseph, especially for our fathers. We need his intercession for the marriages and families, for the clergy and for the Church altogether.

The Creator of the world gave us human beings the commandment to work. With His grace and the example and the help of St. Joseph we can cope with our daily work and everything GOD has intended for us. Let us also always be thankful for every successful day. What did not go to our satisfaction enables us to earn precious merits which in turn we can give to someone else. And so the daily circle prolifically comes to an end.

Words of St. Theresa of Avila: „I took for my Patron and intercessor with GOD St. Joseph. I often recommended myself earnestly to him and I found that in everything concerning my honour and my eternal salvation, he rendered me greater services than I had expected. I cannot call to mind that I have

ever asked him at any time for anything which he has not granted. I have never known anyone who failed to make inner progress by venerating St. Joseph. His intercession with GOD has the power to work miracles. All we need is to call on him with profound confidence. To other Saints GOD seems to have given power to help us in some of our necessities and intentions. St. Joseph can help us in all. I know by my own experience. The Man-GOD was subject to St. Joseph on earth. So therefore now in Heaven He will not deny him any request.“

### **The Mother of GOD to a Privileged Soul**

One day Mary appeared to a faithful servant and said: „My daughter, at present you cannot understand the outstanding holiness of Joseph. Not until they enjoy the vision of GOD will people be able to recognise this holiness, only then will they see and gaze in amazement at this mystery. On the Day of Judgment the damned will weep bitterly for having failed to appreciate and embrace such a mighty protection for the salvation. The world does not know what great privileges the LORD has granted to my holy Spouse.

In all your needs take refuge in his intercession and make every effort to increase the number of his devotees. On earth GOD grants everything my Spouse asks for in Heaven.“

Here and now, I would like to ask all the members of the Lay Community, if I may and if it be possible, to give St. Joseph this pleasure and to recruit new members for him. Thank you!

