



I would say, let us have more faith in St. Joseph, for he has all the power!

St. Bernardino of Siena: „Quite some wisdom was needed in order to be able to live together with JESUS and Mary. Joseph made every effort for it, true to his calling, with all simplicity outwardly and a noble inner spirit, which inspired his relationship with them. What a prudence, what an inner understanding of the divine will and of GOD’s permission were required for the difficult situations which Joseph repeatedly got into. There was a time of uncertainty about Mary’s motherhood. There was the birth of the Child in the stable, the flight into Egypt, their sojourn there and their return home and the loss of the Child in Jerusalem. These were all situations in which the Saint had to summon up all his prudence and at the same time show his faithfulness and reliability.“

This Month’s Heartfelt Matters

- Let us ask St. Joseph that the FATHER’s kingdom may come through the suffering, sacrifices and devotion of those who sacrifice and renounce everything so that the Church may blossom into new life.



With kind regards and the blessing of
Saint Joseph,

Paula Schneider



October 2018

Lay Community of St Joseph

Joseph Who Was Just

Sermon of Vicar General Prelate Dr. Vitus Huonder, Chur, at present Bishop of Chur, at the feast of St. Joseph on 19 March 2001 – “Joseph, her Spouse, who was a just man ...”:

Today I want to think about this statement of the Gospel with you. Joseph is called Mary’s Spouse, because Mary was betrothed to him as his wife. According to Jewish law, we are in the first stage of marriage, when husband and wife do not live together yet, nor, therefore, live together matrimonially. From today’s perspective, we would rather speak of the bridal time, the engagement. In this way, we can also understand why Joseph was worried about the Virgin expecting a baby. Exactly because Joseph was just: „Joseph, her Spouse, who was a just man ...“

Being just in the language of Sacred Scripture has a special meaning, at least it has a wider meaning than in our present usage. In the book of Genesis we are given a description of how GOD established a covenant with Abraham. We read about it: „Abraham believed the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness.“ (Gen. 15,6)

Faith and righteousness belong closely together. The believer is the righteous person and the righteous person is a believer, a believing human being; the righteous person is a human being who devoutly takes GOD's word to heart. „Joseph, her Spouse, who was just“ means as much as: „Joseph, her Spouse, who believed“ – “Joseph, her Spouse, who took faith seriously“ – „Joseph, her Spouse, who followed the guiding principle of faith“ – „Joseph, her Spouse, who wanted to keep GOD's Commands“; in the end, it means roughly speaking: „Joseph, her Spouse, who listened to GOD.“ Because Joseph listened to GOD, he did not want to do any injustice. He did not want to violate GOD's instructions. That is why he did not want to become involved with a woman who was obviously expecting a baby that was not his. Because he intended to correctly prepare his marriage with his Bride as defined by Jewish faith and to live a correct married life, a God-fearing marriage, in piety, a marriage according to GOD's will and instructions. All that is meant by the remark: „Joseph, her Spouse, who was just.“

Because Joseph was just, he had a talent which allowed him to rise above his own plans, his own intentions. As a just man he was able to abandon his own plans and accept GOD's purposes. He was open to GOD's call. As a matter of course, he takes the revelation of the Angel seriously. He allows himself to be taught about the miraculous conception of GOD's SON and by doing so accepts the task newly assigned to him as nursing Father of the LORD and as guardian of the Virgin Mary. Thus the Evangelist can conclude the event with the remark: „When Joseph woke up, he did what the Angel of

the LORD had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.“ This, too, expresses Joseph's righteousness: he does what GOD instructs him to do. It is very important in this context to remember that Joseph's righteousness becomes the basis for the credibility of the message of the miraculous conception of our LORD by Mary, the Mother of GOD. Matthew underlines this righteousness; because even at an early stage bad rumours were spread in Jewish circles about Mary's pregnancy. The very reference to the righteous Joseph strengthens the hearer of the Gospel in their faith in the divine, miraculous event, it guarantees that JESUS was truly conceived and born of a Virgin. Joseph's righteousness leaves no room for doubt about that.

Joseph, the just man, is also the first human being to learn by GOD's revelations who the Child is which Mary is carrying in her womb. (Apart from Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, who recognised in the light of GOD by the child leaping in her womb that Mary was carrying GOD's SON.) In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph is the first to meet the Son of GOD and who knows about the mystery of His origin. People rightly invoke St. Joseph as Patron of the Church. For he is standing at the beginning of the Church.

The Church begins to live when CHRIST begins to live in the womb of the Virgin Mary. There the Church has already been formed in advance in her entire fullness. This Church of the beginning is entrusted to St. Joseph, the just man. Under his protection, in his care the Church can survive the initial dangers; under his protection she can also survive the dangers of today.