



So although in the beginning my pension was cut, St. Joseph gave me instead more than I could have ever imagined. I thank St. Joseph daily for his mighty help. (E. Z.)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, teach us to love with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength – every human being, especially our own family.“



„Saint Joseph, with joy and devotion you worked for Your little family. Every hammer blow, every bead of sweat and every heartbeat was an act of love for Your beloved JESUS and His most holy Mother.“

Now I say goodbye again and remain always with you with kindest regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Sister Paula*



February 2019

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Reflections on the Life of St. Joseph

When Joseph became aware of Mary's motherhood without having been involved in the mystery, his behaviour was exemplary bearing in mind his inner pain. Did he accuse or disown his Spouse Mary? No, never. In his eyes she was a Saint. As befitted the pious, faithful and just Joseph, he took pity on his betrothed Wife by making arrangements for their divorce. This behaviour shows him as a quiet, sensible, sensitive and discreet.

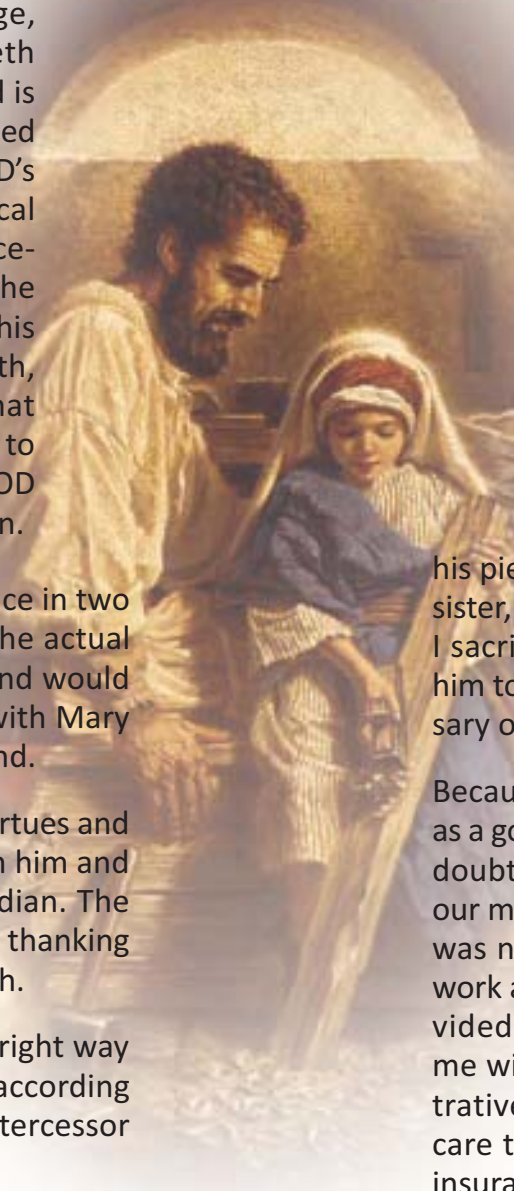
Joseph could not possibly know what was going on. He risked missing his assigned mission. Because Heaven had incredibly great plans for St. Joseph. So GOD came to his aid after such a severe trial. An Angel of the LORD was allowed to inform him of the Annunciation. GOD took him into His confidence. Joseph became the unique chosen one for divine purposes. Joseph was a man with a unique attitude in matters of faith. Like Mary, he said yes and unquestioningly obeyed the order to accept to act as a father to the Messiah. He fulfilled this heavenly mission with his life in the highest degree.

Joseph is the Husband of the Empress of Heaven and the universe. At the beginning of this pilgrimage, Mary's faith meets Joseph's faith. When Elisabeth says about the Mother of the Redeemer: „Blessed is she who believed,“ this beatitude can also be applied to St. Joseph because he answered positively to GOD's word when it was presented to him at that critical moment. Joseph did not respond to the announcement of the Angel as Mary did, but he did what the LORD commanded him to do, taking her home as his Wife. What he did is the purest obedience of faith, that is a yes in a different way. You could say that what Joseph did bound him in a very special way to Mary's faith: he accepted as truth coming from GOD what she had already accepted at the Annunciation.

According to the Jewish custom, marriage took place in two stages: first they celebrated the legal betrothal (the actual marriage) and only after a certain time the husband would take his wife home. So even before Joseph lived with Mary in the same household, he was already her Husband.

Mary loved her Spouse because of his wonderful virtues and merits. She recognised how GOD was pleased with him and was therefore chosen to be her Spouse and guardian. The most holy Mother often talked about it with JESUS thanking Him for the many graces He had endowed him with.

May Joseph, a just man, a holy man, show us the right way leading to him in Heaven. May he help us to live according to his example and may he always be a mighty intercessor for us.



## Be You My Advocate

Until I was fifty, I pursued several careers. When I fell ill, I became involved in legal proceedings over my pension that went on for two years ending in a declaration that I was certified as fit for light work in a sitting position. However, I was at the end of my tether. At that moment I asked St. Joseph to be my lawyer, because he is just. When also my further legal proceedings before the social security tribunal were dismissed, I implored anew in boundless trust in St. Joseph for a happy solution.

It so happened that I was still able to marry. My husband was seriously ill suffering from the same disease as I did. He was very educated and helpful and his piety was edifying. We loved each other like brother and sister, and helped and strengthened each other in our illness. I sacrificed myself in order to take care of him and helped him to the best of my ability. Shortly before the first anniversary of our marriage, my dear husband died.

Because he was already 66 years old when we married and as a government official already lived in retirement, it seemed doubtful whether I would be given a survivor's pension as our marriage had not lasted five years. Then I learnt that this was nonetheless legally possible if the widow is unable to work and in need. A medical certificate with ECG results provided enough evidence. A general practitioner provided me with the documents, which I presented to the administrative authority. I was successful! Now I obtained better care than the one I could have received through disability insurance back then.