



GOD the FATHER entrusts to the care of Joseph His unspeakable treasures: JESUS and Mary. Joseph is also a great treasure and at the same time he became the guardian of the divine treasures. He helped to keep the tremendous mystery of GOD becoming Man a secret. Nevertheless, he reminds us that JESUS is true GOD and SON of the Heavenly FATHER. By teaching us the close intimacy with JESUS, he teaches us at the same time the deepest respect. On the one hand, he encourages us to go up to JESUS and kiss His little feet; on the other hand, he urges us to fall on our knees and worship the Eternal One.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, full of humility, gentleness and most pure in heart, which is all patience, love and readiness. – We venerate You and thank You! Again, we entrust to You our Lay Community, our families and all the dying.“



„My FATHER in Heaven, we thank You for having chosen Saint Joseph as the Nursing Father of Your divine SON JESUS CHRIST and as the wonderful Spouse of Mary, the chosen Mother of GOD.“

With very kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph I say goodbye again,

Paula Schneider



March 2019

Lay Community of St Joseph

Recording in Tax Lists

As a law-abiding citizen St. Joseph went to his hometown. Not without being worried, because Mary was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and she had asked him to take her with him; she knew what was going to happen in Bethlehem. But Joseph suffered repeated severe trials, which he faced up to with great confidence. It was a long journey – in poor lodgings – uphill and downhill – in the cold. His worries were justified: What a difficult search to find an inn in Bethlehem awaited them, it was nerve-racking and tearful because of the coldness and harshness of the people; although they saw the heavily pregnant bride. Out of sheer necessity he led Mary into a cave, which a kind-hearted person had recommended to him. Mary knew that the Redeemer would be born in poverty.

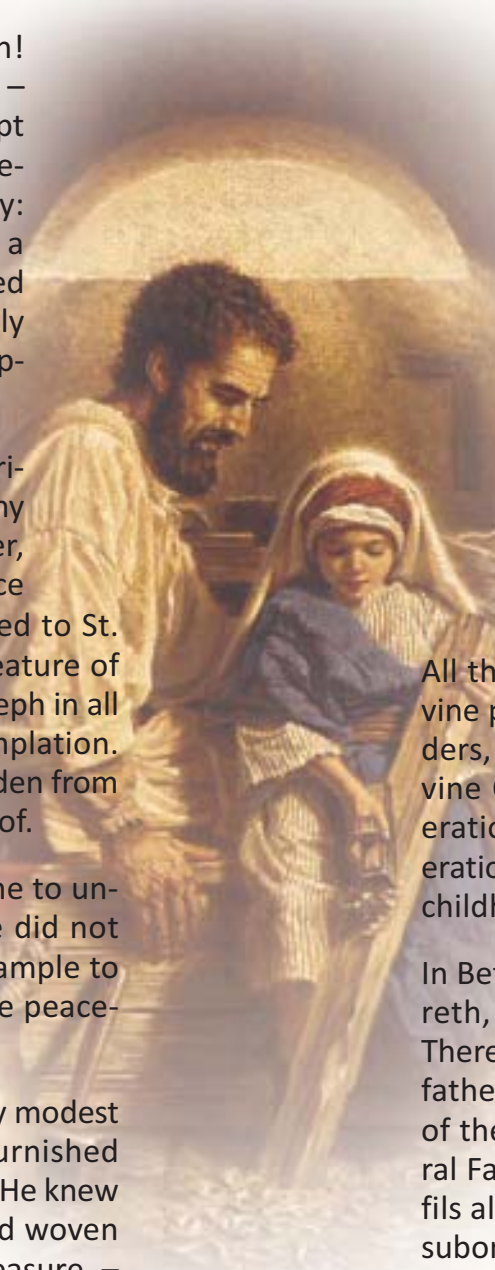
How much did Mary suffer in silence accepting every sacrifice. How shocked Joseph must have been when he entered the cold and draughty cave. After all, in Nazareth he had prepared everything for the birth of the Messiah. How sorry Joseph must have felt for Mary. Joseph supported Mary as much as he could. He looked after her so

well – and all the more when the Child was born! With tears in their eyes they held the Redeemer – GOD’S SON – in their arms. With his cloak Joseph kept away the cold from Him. How incredibly the Child rewarded all his sacrifices, his confidence, his loyalty: Joseph was allowed to hold GOD in his arms. What a knowledge beyond words Joseph must have received in that hour, a knowledge for which he immediately sacrificed his entire life while his heart went into raptures in joyful jubilation as happened so often.

And also here, at this unimaginable, holy and mysterious event, Joseph silently treasures unspeakably many things in his heart. When he worked as a carpenter, whatsoever he did, a peaceful atmosphere of silence spread, which accompanied everything that related to St. Joseph. Silence is the outstanding characteristic feature of the inner being of this Joseph. The silence of St. Joseph in all his actions reveals an atmosphere of deep contemplation. St. Joseph was in daily contact with the mystery hidden from eternity, which had taken up its abode under his roof.

JESUS, Mary, Joseph – the Holy Family. Joseph came to understand the most profound divine mysteries. He did not reveal them except to Mary. What a wonderful example to us, to be more silent. – It would definitely be more peaceful.

Let us imagine the daily life of this family in this very modest cube-shaped little house which St. Joseph had furnished practically, simply and homely with his skilful hands. He knew how to work on wood for useful things. Joseph had woven very ornate walls which could be rearranged at pleasure. –



Pure love, being there for each other and togetherness, singing and praying and working made them all a great example to us. I think, in that home the SAVIOUR had no reason to say: „Peace be with you.“

Joseph’s Representation

Joseph represented us human beings in the stable of Bethlehem, during the sojourn in Egypt and in the house of Nazareth. He imparts to us the close intimacy, to which the divine Child entitles us to through His Incarnation. As with St. Joseph, the Child JESUS accepts all the little favours of our love and veneration as well and, in turn, allows His childlike joy to flow into our hearts.

All the worship, mixed with great reverence, which His divine presence imposes on us, all these Joseph receives, renders, fulfils and shows, as it were, on our behalf to the divine Child. Joseph is present on behalf of the future generations, especially on behalf of those people whose veneration is particularly aimed at the great mysteries of JESUS’ childhood.

In Bethlehem as well as in Egypt, in the desert and in Nazareth, Joseph is like the shadow of the Heavenly FATHER. Therein lies his exalted dignity, his direct and forever blessed fatherhood. He is the Nursing Father of JESUS, in the eyes of the outside world he is even considered to be the natural Father. He exercises fatherly authority and carefully fulfils all his daily duties. JESUS CHRIST in His human nature is subordinate to St. Joseph.