



Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us never speak about ourselves without necessity, let us also avoid thoughtless talk. Let us speak cautiously and slowly. May St Joseph help us to watch our tongue.

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With very kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Sister Paula



July 2019

Lay Community of St Joseph

St Joseph's Spirit of Silence

The prudence of St Joseph had soared to the highest point possible, to the extent of seeing nothing but divine things. It towered over the fleeting course of transitory things. We see him as a contemplative absorbed in GOD, as the man of silence and mystery who was on the earth without being of the earth and from whom nothing may, even for a moment, take away the thought of eternity.

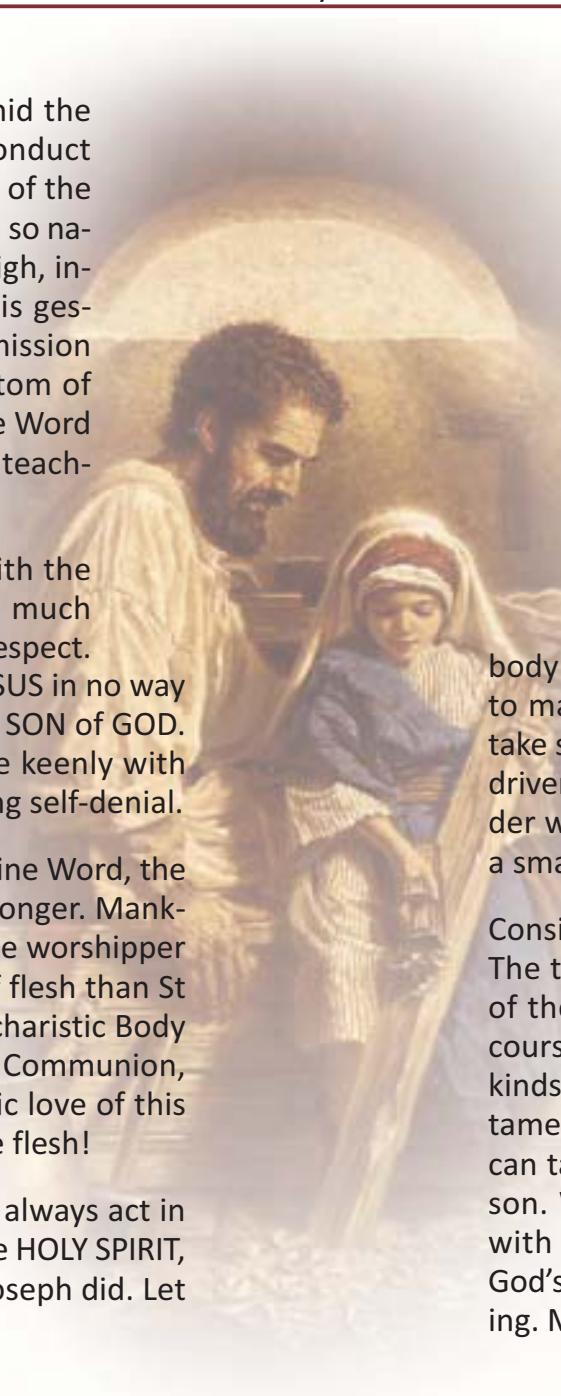
Let us also contemplate his silence; to know how to refrain from speaking is an outstanding part of the virtue of prudence. Holy Scripture compares the idle babbler to "a city whose walls are broken through." (Prov. 25,28) Joseph remains silent; he is like a fortress preserving its hidden treasure behind impenetrable walls. Because the spirit of his silence was religious and prayerful, it became second nature to him. The Gospel does not mention a single word spoken by him. It only tells us that he gave the Infant GOD the name of JESUS. Joseph said "JESUS," and no more. But in saying "JESUS," he said all – because he said the word that enlightens all mysteries, the word on which humanity lives and shall live until the end of time. After Joseph, we may all say: "JESUS."

Not only did Joseph keep quiet, but he also hid the secret of the Divinity of JESUS CHRIST. His conduct made everyone believe that he was the father of the adolescent growing up under his eyes. He acted so naturally without effort or restraint, through a high, instinctive-like prudence which curbed all of his gestures with an overall sense of fidelity to the mission given him from Heaven. Let us go to the bottom of this attitude of St Joseph towards the incarnate Word of GOD and we will then discover marvellous teachings.

With pious people faith and worship grow with the familiarity of things. Unfortunately, however, much too often daily contact with things decreases respect. Joseph's familiarity in living constantly with JESUS in no way diminished his regard for and adoration of the SON of GOD. On the contrary, it penetrated him even more keenly with wonder and led him to an ever more deepening self-denial.

At the sight of humility encountered by the divine Word, the humbleness of St Joseph increasingly grew stronger. Mankind has yet to know a greater and more humble worshipper of the divine Majesty hidden under the veil of flesh than St Joseph. O, you priests who consecrate the Eucharistic Body of CHRIST, O faithful who receive Him at Holy Communion, imitate the faith, the respect, and the seraphic love of this great Saint in his dealings with the Word made flesh!

Let us all be inspired by his prudence so as to always act in conformity with the will of GOD. Let us obey the HOLY SPIRIT, this sovereign Sanctifier of our souls, just as Joseph did. Let



us conceal under a veil of silence the gifts received from our LORD as did Joseph. Despite the imperfections of our earthly life, let us fix our eyes on eternal values, and let us try to aim all our efforts towards attaining them. This is the heavenly prudence of the Saints. (Dom Bernard Maréchaux)

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The Tongue, a Dangerous Tool

The holy Apostle James writes, James 3,2-12: „We all stumble in many ways. Those who are never at fault in what they say are perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark! The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil amongst the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of our life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by human nature, but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be so.