



exclaimed in great joy: „Did I not tell you that St Joseph can do anything!“

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Father Joseph, You mighty Protector of the Church, see the great distress of the Spouse of JESUS CHRIST. See the great need of so many souls in and outside the Church! You are the Patron of the holy Church – please come to her aid! Thank You, Father Joseph!“



During his life, St Joseph really always remained in the shade – in the shade of JESUS and Mary. He followed them like a shadow in order to protect them, to attend to their every need that they might not strike their feet against a stone. GOD continually intervened in his life: with severe trials, much suffering, self-denial and pain, especially because he knew that the Redeemer would one day be hated and crucified. For it had already been foretold in the Old Testament. In order to revive Joseph and to reward his faithfulness, GOD repeatedly gave him extraordinary visions and understanding of the Divinity.

Never did he ask: „LORD, why?“ No, his joy and satisfaction was to do GOD's will.

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

Sister Paula



August 2019

Lay Community of St Joseph

Humility and Virginit

Just as St Joseph took care to guard his virtues under cover of a very holy humility, he was also especially diligent in hiding the precious pearl of his virginity. If he agreed to be married, it was so that, without anyone knowing it, he could hide his virtue under the veil of a holy marriage.

On this subject, virgins and those who wish to live in chastity are taught that it is not sufficient to be celibate if they are not humble and do not guard their purity in the precious vase of humility. Otherwise they will be like the foolish virgins, who were turned down from the bridegroom's wedding feast and forced into the wedding feast of the world where the advice of the heavenly Bridegroom to be humble is not taken seriously. He is the one who says: „When you go or are invited to a wedding, go and sit down in the lowest place.“

We can see now how necessary humility is in order to preserve virginity because no one will take part in the celestial nuptial feast which GOD prepares for the pure in His heavenly home, unless the person is accompanied by this virtue.

Precious things such as sweet-smelling ointments are not exposed to the open air, as the fragrance would gradually escape in the environment and spoilt by insects. It would lose its effect and worth. Likewise, righteous souls, fearing to lose the value and merit of their good deeds, should place them for safe-keeping in a vessel, not in a common one, but in a precious alabaster vessel, like the one used by Mary Magdalene as she poured out the ointment over the sacred head of our LORD.

So this alabaster vessel is the humility in which we, in imitation of Mary, the Mother of GOD, and St Joseph, wrap our virtues and all that would draw admiration from the world, being happy to please GOD alone. We dwell under the sacred veil of self-humbling in expectation that GOD may come and take us to a safe place of His glory, and where He will Himself display our virtues for His honour and esteem.

To what extent do we think St Joseph possessed virginity, the virtue which renders us like Angels? The Most Blessed Virgin shines in her eternal virginity like no other creature. How great was the virtue of him who was entrusted by GOD with the task of being the guardian of her virginity, or better still, of being her companion!

Both Mary and Joseph had taken a vow of virginity for a lifetime when suddenly GOD asked them to be united in a holy bond of marriage. However, He does not want to release them from their vows, but rather confirm and strengthen them in their holy enterprise that they may persevere in it.

Moreover, they vowed then to live their marriage together in a virginal way.

It was out of the question that St Joseph would be placed above Our Lady, in order to make her break her vow of virginity. On the contrary, he became her companion, so that the chastity of Mary might be preserved in its entirety in a more wonderful way under the veil of their blessed marriage and of the holy union of life which they shared.

Excerpt from "The Glories of Saint Joseph"
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Tomorrow She Will Be Healed

A story from the life of the Capuchin priest St Leopold Mandic, who died in Padua in 1942 and who was beatified in 1976:

Miss Eveline Bero from Bovolenta fell ill with a serious form of inflammation of a vein. She was in a most critical condition. On 18 March, on the eve of the feast of St Joseph, her father went weeping to Father Leopold and poured out his heart to him. With a smile he immediately replied: „Do not fear anything! Tomorrow is the feast of St Joseph. I will remember your daughter at Holy Mass. And she will be healed.“

At six o'clock the next morning, at the exact time Father Leopold celebrated Holy Mass, the sick woman was suddenly healed, to the great astonishment of the doctor responsible for her treatment and all those who had known of her desperate condition. When Father Leopold heard of it, he