



This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „St. Joseph, I ask You, take my whole life into Your hands. Lead me to where GOD wants me to be because I believe in Your power and in Your great heart. May You give all of us Your support to faithfully fulfil our duties and to do our work conscientiously and well.“



Joseph, the Nursing Father of JESUS, experienced the power of sacrifice. How often are we under the influence of this power, even unknowingly. To patiently bear the daily grind, difficulties, worries, infirmities, illnesses and offer them up to GOD, as well as to offer resistance against the manifold temptations requires strength and this ennobles our soul.

With kind regards until next time and the daily blessing of Saint Joseph,

Sister Paula



September 2019

Lay Community of St Joseph

His Life – Submitted to GOD

Joseph was a man of deeds. – He just took action, even when the Angel of the LORD woke him up and ordered him to flee as quickly as possible. Let us try to put ourselves in St Joseph's place: the pain that they are out to kill the just-born Messiah – GOD, the Creator of all things! You cannot fully think it out, nor are there words for it, just powerlessness.

What a constant worry and pain old Simeon's words must have left behind in Joseph's heart. How must his heart have tensed up on hearing that a sword would pierce Mary's heart.

Joseph knew about the mysteries surrounding the divine SON. And how wonderfully did Joseph keep everything through his holy silence and in this way protect Mary with the Infant JESUS. Joseph took these great holy mysteries to the grave. In His earthly life, JESUS hid Himself in the shadow of St Joseph until GOD called His beloved Foster and Nursing Father to enter eternity.

Joseph and Mary set the example of a holy family. Joseph was always a very kindhearted and loving father,

unshakable in his confidence in GOD, in his faith, obedience and care.

Joseph worked modestly and yet so excellently on GOD's redemptive work – in his very simple daily actions, which, however, are very important for the discharge of his duties and, therefore, were full of spiritual depth and simplicity. What an example to us!

What is so very typical of St. Joseph: He just immediately acts on what the Angel tells him, even when he was to return from Egypt to Nazareth at Heaven's behest, which was a very great joy for the Holy Family.

The Greatness and Sublimity of St Joseph

Joseph has been chosen and raised to an incredibly high dignity. Angels are servants of GOD. – The SAVIOUR said to the Apostles: „I no longer call you servants, but friends.“ Joseph, however, was raised to be servant, friend and representative of the Heavenly FATHER, moreover Spouse of Mary, the Mother of GOD and Empress of Heaven and earth.

Just as GOD the FATHER is LORD in Heaven, so Joseph has been appointed Lord of the whole world and GOD put him in charge of His house. JESUS is the SON of the FATHER in Heaven through the working of the HOLY SPIRIT, SON of Mary according to the body and Son of Joseph according to the name, by GOD's command.

Joseph was the nurturer through the labour of his hands. What a sanctified, ennobled family! They were the noblest family that ever existed on earth. They were, one might say, a living image of the Most Holy TRINITY here on earth.

A Precious Life

St. Joseph is unique in his holiness! During his life, there was not one trait of him, which we do not find likeable, even worthy of imitation.

We are told by Doctors of the Church and Saints that he belongs to the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. If only we could bring some or other likeness to him into our lives, how blessed could we regard ourselves! For he led a life that was pleasing to GOD in everything, a really prolific life, a life which was not empty, not squandered senselessly, a truly precious life.

How come? The life of this modest carpenter was not extraordinary in the eyes of the people. But the way it came about, that was what counted! And that makes up the whole richness and content of his life. Not what he said or did was conspicuous, but the way it came about, how his actions issued forth from eternal sources, how it issued forth from GOD's ordination and from his own strong and kindhearted soul that acted with all its strength on GOD's mission and focused on JESUS and Mary, his all-accepting and devoting life of sacrifice; that was the substantial and powerful feature in his life. There are so infinitely many and holy things about St Joseph which are still hidden from us.

