



boy to the road, and call the two strangers. They would wash me for the good place after my death." The missionaries were deeply moved. The behaviour of the sick woman in the face of death was of such simplicity that it left no room for doubt. On parting, they gave her a little image of St Joseph, Patron Saint of the dying. The woman was beside herself with joy and shouted: „I know him, it was he who visited me! He had often come to me. It was he who made me send my son to the road to call you.“

Had St Joseph been with her only in a dream, in a vision or in reality? The dying woman did not know, nor did it matter to her. What mattered to her was what she had experienced through him. The missionaries, however, had a lot to think about ... As they learnt later that the Chinese woman had died that very same night. (from "Verehrt den hl. Josef" [Let us venerate St Joseph] by M.-Th. Isenegger)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Praying, sacrificing yourself for others – worldwide. St Joseph did so. He also prayed for our age and sanctified himself and gained great merits for us.



Let us see to it that St Joseph will come to be the head of our family, and he will never abandon us.

With kindest regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph, your

*Paula*



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## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Joseph Helper in a Great Many Requests

Words of Mary: „In earthly matters you should turn to my Spouse Joseph. Pray a novena to him for nine days. He will send you help. Tell everyone that they should venerate my Spouse Joseph more and invoke him more often. After all, he was our Protector and looked after my JESUS and me in such a fatherly manner.“

It is the greatest pleasure for St Joseph when we entrust a request to him to present it to his divine SON. No one invokes him in vain. Sometimes the supplicant does not receive what he asked St Joseph for, but St Joseph will give him something much better instead – a much greater grace through his intercession. Joseph is much more longsighted than we are, knowing that there will be other problems.

Words of Mary: „My Spouse is far too little invoked.“

St Joseph is the eminent example for us, for all Christians – especially for the families – because of his deep, sound piety, his loyalty, his unshakeable confidence in GOD in all the severe trials of his life.

St Joseph wants to tell us that we should not talk so much about what could still happen or will happen in future. Let

us cast all our cares on the LORD. Let us entrust them to St Joseph, he takes good care of them, very good care! If only people had more confidence in him. Boundless confidence obtains the answer to your prayer. Let us not forget to ask St Joseph on behalf of the priests that they may celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with great love, take the SAVIOUR in their hands with intimate love, that they may work with great joy, love and compassion in the vineyard of the LORD. Joseph is the special Protector of the priests. He is the special Protector of chastity. When we pray to GOD, let us always do it through the heart of Mary and in particular together with St Joseph. St Joseph will also gladly and ardently pray for our troubled families and that good and sacrificing priests may still emerge from them again. St Joseph is also a wonderful helper to make a good confession – even if you have to confess a sin which you might have kept secret for many years out of shame and in this way abused the Sacrament.

### St Joseph – Trailblazer for JESUS

In January 1976, Ludwig Lenzen reported on an adventure in China of two Austrian missionaries from the Steyl Mission, Father Götsch and Brother Gervasius:

One day the latter was accompanying the priest to a very sick woman from Kaotai to the South Chinese Qilian Mountains. After an over-200-kilometre, three-day horse ride they reached their destination. The sick woman, however, had already died. Disheartened, the missionaries set off for their post. They were on their way back home when, halfway there, they met a young boy, who was waiting for them on the roadside, and asked them to accompany him to his mother. The boy took them to a little village some ten to fifteen kilometres away. The dying woman was waiting for them in a cob hut and immediately started

asking the priest some strange questions: „Will you, stranger, tell me the truth and answer my questions?“ – „But certainly, mother.“ – „Is there a GOD in three Persons? Is there a place of happiness for all the good ones and a place of terror for all the bad ones in the other life? Is it true that GOD came to this earth to die for the people and open up for them the place of happiness? Stranger, is all of this true?“

Astonished, the priest said yes. From where did this sick person obtain her knowledge? „Well,“ said the sick woman, „you have some water with you. So wash me that I can enter the place of happiness.“ How did she know that the priest had baptismal water with him? The determination of the sick woman had something childlike about it and something superior at the same time. Father Götsch gave her a brief instruction and then administered holy Baptism to her. Then, filled with joy, the sick woman shouted: „You do have some Bread with you as well. It is no ordinary bread, but GOD is in it. Give me also some!“ The priest carried the Most Blessed Sacrament in a pyx on his breast. The dying woman knew that, too. He gave her Communion and the Sacrament of the holy Anointing of the Sick.

Then he said to her: „So far it was you who asked the questions. Now it is my turn to ask. How did you come by these truths of faith? Did you have previous contact with Catholic or evangelical Christians?“ – „No, stranger.“ – „But you must have read Christian books?“ – „I cannot even read, stranger, nor did I know that such books exist.“ – „But how did you acquire your knowledge of faith?“ – „I only thought that it must be so, and I have lived accordingly for nearly ten years. I have also instructed my children accordingly. You can wash (baptise) them all.“ – „Did you know that we were passing by today?“ – „Certainly! I had a dream in which I saw an elderly man. He told me to send my

