



woman received the holy Sacraments of Penance and of the Altar after three weeks of instruction. An eight-year-old child was baptised after being given the proper instruction. Even before the end of the month of St Joseph, an unhappy family had found their way back to salvation. (Sister Antonia, Buenos Aires)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- St Joseph as the head of the Holy Family in Nazareth is a wonderful example to us. Let us ask him to see to it that each of our families will be a stronghold of unity, peace and love and in this way will be ever more similar to his family.



And then again, from good families come good priests. We, human beings, need priests of the heart who guide the people and who are true fathers to them.

With kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph, I remain with all of you,

Sister Paula



February 2020

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Virginal St Joseph in His Absolute Humility

He constantly tried hard to practise virtues, especially humility. Under its cover he hid, in a very particular manner, his wonderful virginity. He could freely and without any concern consent to the marriage because he had recognised Mary's absolute purity straightaway. When Mary revealed to him her vow of chastity, his heart rejoiced and he could, hidden under the veil of marriage, live according to absolute chastity. This promise of the two Saints made it possible to send the Redeemer to mankind. Let us think about it – it is also for us a wonderful lesson, which should be taken seriously.

When people would like to remain virginal and also want to live chaste lives in another station of life, it is not enough to be only chaste, they must be humble, too. Purity must be carefully guarded in humility. No one will be called to the wedding banquet in Heaven who is not accompanied by virtues, especially by humility.

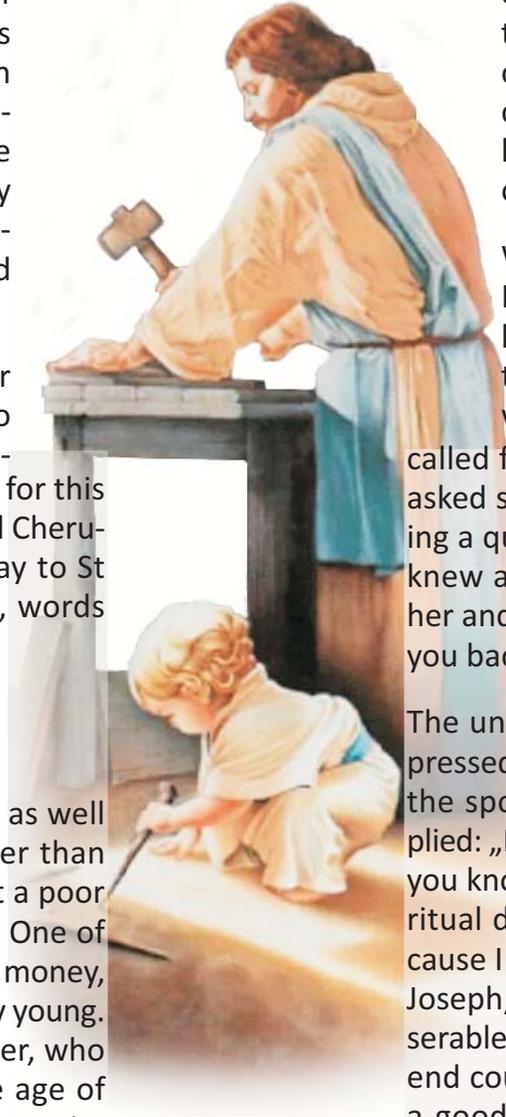
Let us look at our heart as a very precious vessel, in which we enclose all virtues and everything which makes us

gain praise and appreciation before the people, like Mary and Joseph did. In fact, all we want is only to please and delight GOD. GOD will reveal our life of virtue in eternity to His glory. In Heaven St Joseph is dressed so gloriously radiantly and majestically – with his virtues. We cannot begin to imagine what greatness and degree of virginity St Joseph possessed. He was like the Angels. When Joseph had died, Mary said: „Joseph was so holy that he became transparent and angel-like.“ She, who was virginity itself, had known her Joseph only pure and holy.

GOD gave her a wonderful companion at her side for the very reason that in this way she did not have to break her holy vow of virginity. GOD gave her a companion of purity and this is the great St Joseph, who for this purpose surpasses all the Saints, even the Angels and Cherubim of Heaven, in the necessary virtues. Let us pray to St Joseph for true humility – for chastity in thoughts, words and deeds.

St Joseph, Protector of Married Couples

Working as a nurse, I come across material poverty as well as often spiritual distress. This often weighs heavier than the outward misery. And so on a February day I met a poor woman who was critically ill and also without help. One of her four children was an apprentice and earned little money, the second one was not healthy and the third still very young. „And the fourth?“ I asked. „Sister, that is my daughter, who causes me most bitter anguish. She left me at the age of twelve. Now she is 22 years old and lives a life of vice. She



is a mother of four, all of whom are not baptised, and she did not marry in church.“ In the past days, I set off on several occasions to visit at home this daughter who had gone astray. But to no avail. I knocked on her door several times – but the door remained closed. At first I was disappointed. Nevertheless, I did hope that I would be lucky enough to succeed some other time.

While praying to St Joseph and having faith in his help I tried again early in March. And indeed: no sooner had I knocked on the door of this unfortunate woman than a middle-aged man opened the door and asked what I wanted. „I would like to talk to your wife.“ He called for her and a small, tender woman approached and asked somewhat timidly: „What do you want, Sister?“ Saying a quick prayer to St Joseph I told her straight out what I knew about her and that my worry about the salvation of her and her family had led me to her home. „I want to bring you back to GOD,“ I said.

The unhappy person obviously appeared to be deeply impressed by these words. She grew pale and stood rooted to the spot. When she had regained her composure, she replied: „If this is the case, be welcome, my Sister. It is true what you know about me. I often wanted to escape from this spiritual distress, waiting desperately for a helping hand, because I did not know how to do it. Every day I prayed: ‚Saint Joseph, Protector of married couples, save me from my miserable situation!‘ No doubt, St Joseph sent you.“ The happy end could not be far away, when St Joseph had made such a good start. The man agreed to a church wedding. The