



Imitating the life of St Joseph and being prepared to surrender entirely in everything is the practice of piety, one of the forms to express the virtue of the love of GOD.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us recommend all people who are addicted to drugs to St Joseph, because they cannot escape their predicament on their own.



St Joseph solved all the tasks that were entrusted to him faithfully and reliably. He also loyally remained silent about the fact that Mary was adorned with unrivalled gifts, the Blessed One of GOD and the Blessed One amongst women. He also stayed quiet about the fact that his Foster Son was the long-awaited Redeemer, the SON of GOD made Man. Therefore, we call his silence holy. Through his silence he saved his Family from an infinite amount of difficulties, slander, malicious persecutions and did not endanger their lives.

This silence concerns us all very much. In a thoughtful silence we can avoid many misunderstandings and quarrels. On the other hand, people will cause permanent damage to others and their conscience will be burdened with irreparable things.

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

Paula Schneider



June 2020

Lay Community of St Joseph

Because of His Wonderful Virtues

Yes, that is why the enemy had no possibility to attack St Joseph, just as he could not attack John the Baptist. The enemy ground his teeth in anger because many others were cautioned in their hearts to do good. His whole being, his inward-looking life were, in fact, a steadfast prayer and a constant looking towards GOD, besides all his duties.

As the enemy could not enrage Joseph or make him impatient or turn him away from GOD, he kept on working on people who did not have a good reputation. The devil stirred them up against Joseph with great hatred. His holy life was a reproach and a humiliation to these people. Again and again, whenever Joseph came across these people, he was scolded. But he remained silent and prayed that GOD might give them the necessary insight. Joseph did not pay attention to them and went his own way. They interpreted his silence as proof that he did not know how to speak, that he was a fool, a chicken. Joseph put up with this harassment in silence, because he sensed that this was more pleasing to GOD and in this way made Him happy.

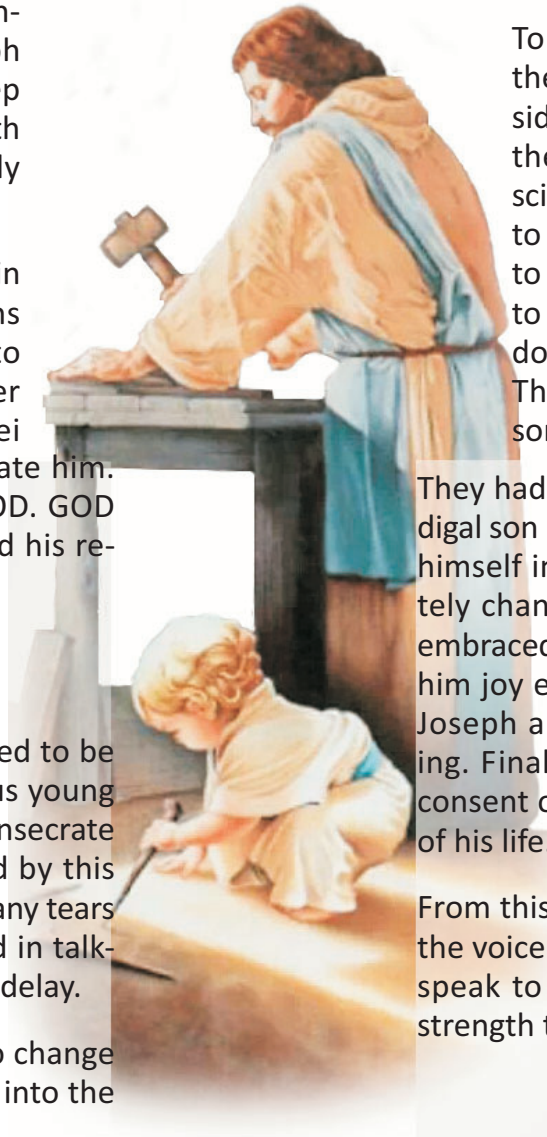
The Evil One had countless tricks to torment Joseph. There was one thing he could not and was not allowed to do: to tempt him in unchastity. (People who practise few virtues he will bring down first through unchastity.) The devil tried to accomplish that Joseph would at least hear bad words. Not only did he keep the devil away from himself with prayer, but also with fasting. In this way Joseph protected his most holy spouse as well.

There were also benevolent people coming to him in his workshop. He always had spiritual conversations and disclosed Scripture to them, exhorted them to read and study Scripture. Joseph had such a proper way of teaching them that his words entered their hearts and that they made quite an effort to imitate him. Joseph was very pleased about it and thanked GOD. GOD took the greatest delight in him and never allowed his requests for these people to be in vain.

Prodigal Parents and Prodigal Son

A family from Lyons had a son who seemed destined to be their crown in the eyes of GOD and men. This pious young man felt himself called to leave the world and to consecrate himself to the LORD in the religious life. Dismayed by this resolve, his parents fell into his arms, shedding so many tears and reproaching him so much that they succeeded in talking him out of his intention; they secured at least a delay.

They literally pushed him into the world in order to change his views. The young man too easily let himself fall into the



trap. Very soon he grew weary of praying, withdrew from the Sacraments and surrendered to all kinds of temptations.

To escape from the shame of his scandals and from the reproaches of his parents, he left his place of residence and enlisted in the army. His father and mother were grieved, overcome by the pangs of conscience and with sorrow. They scarcely dared to speak to GOD any more after stealing from Him their child to hand him over to the devil. The thought occurred to them of invoking St Joseph in order to obtain pardon for themselves and the conversion of their son. They began a novena along with several pious persons and prayed most fervently.

They had hardly prayed a few days when suddenly the prodigal son knocked at the door of his father's house and threw himself in tears at the feet of his parents. He was completely changed. The father and mother burst into tears and embraced their son who had become a Christian again. With him joy entered again under their roof. They owed it to St Joseph and they rendered him solemn acts of thanksgiving. Finally the man became a monk – this time with the consent of his parents – and atoned for his sins for the rest of his life.

From this example we learn how important it is to listen to the voice of GOD and to follow the grace of vocation. Let us speak to St Joseph in all our worries. He will give us the strength to conquer all the hardships.