



was pacing up and down. We hoped that he would soon leave and we waited at a distance. But the man would not leave. He looked so strong and so very threatening that none of us dared to draw near. We had to leave empty-handed, whether we liked it or not. I have never seen that man since – but just now, inside, I instantly recognised him. That is exactly what he looked like. It was he!”

Deeply moved we had heard his confession and when we returned to the chapel to dear St Joseph, we thanked him for having heard our daily prayer: „Please, do You keep away everything which could harm our house!”

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us show a steady confidence in St Joseph who can really make the most impossible things possible.



No one is more blessed, no one happier than a human being who carries GOD in his heart.

On 19 September, it is 10 years since the foundation of the “Lay Community of St Joseph.” The community now has 223 members and is growing steadily. Every member is safe and secure in the heart of St Joseph and experiences day after day his silent presence and help.

With kind regards, all good wishes and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Paula Schneider



September 2020

Lay Community of St Joseph

GOD Will Add

The name Joseph means “GOD will add.” GOD will add new, unexpected dimensions to the saintly lives of those who fulfil His will: the deciding factor, which gives all other things its value, that which is divine.

GOD “added” the life of the Virgin Mary and the life of JESUS to the humble and holy Joseph. GOD will never allow Himself to be surpassed in generosity. Joseph could likewise have said the words of Mary, his Bride: „He has been mindful of my humbleness ...for the Mighty One has done great things for me ...” (cf. Magnificat)

Joseph was indeed a very modest and humble man in whom even GOD trusted to accomplish great things with him. Joseph knew how to behave in every situation of his life as GOD expected him to. Holy Scripture, therefore, praises Joseph as the just man. In the Hebrew usage, just means pious, a blameless servant of GOD, fulfiller of the divine will.

In other words: the person who loves GOD and also shows this love by fulfilling the Commandments and devoting

their whole life to the service of his fellow human being is just.

(Josemaría Escrivá, excerpts from "Sanctifying Work")

In many ways you can devote your whole life to the service of your fellow human being – sick or healthy. – Everything we do in word and deed has, after all, such great value before GOD when we do it out of love for Him and our neighbour. If we think and feel like this in our hearts and if this is our basic attitude, then we go in the footsteps of St Joseph. He will support us and lead us where he wants us to be.

Let us do our daily chores cheerfully despite all kinds of aches and pains, worries and problems so that the day may be sanctified.

Soldiers March in Honour of St Joseph

How many married men were forced to leave their families when they were called to do military service. Have they also always been aware that St Joseph was their safe protection and aid? Anyway, we can assume that this is the case with the very soldier in the following account.

The soldier's name was Joseph and he celebrated his 88th birthday in 1981. He remembered very well his time as a recruit in the Spandau barracks in 1914 and told a 70-year-old missionary the following story whilst smiling in amusement:

We were on our way back home from the parade ground when the sergeant ordered: „Private Schmitz, strike up a song!“ When he asked which song he was supposed to strike up, he was told: „After your own liking!“ Now private Schmitz had the unusual idea to sing a song in honour of his Name Patron. With a loud

voice he invited his companions: „Those whose name is Joseph and who know the song should join in the singing.“ And immediately he struck up: „Saint Joseph, hear our fervent prayer, accept the praise we devote to You ...“ This was really a peculiar “procession,” seeing the soldiers marching in honour of St Joseph.

(P.P.K. Brasil)

The Patron of the House

A sister of an order told us this true story:

Today St Joseph did show me how he helps us, without us having had any clue. In the house of Joseph, in the dormitory of our pupils, something needed fixing. I guided the workman, who was called up for the job, through the underground corridor to the other side of the building. We arrived at the niche where a life-size St Joseph had been put up and where our children ever so gladly go and receive the evening blessing before going to bed. Seeing the statue the man became visibly upset. A shout slipped out of his mouth: „There he is now – it was he!“ I was taken aback, but did not want to ask any more questions.

We arranged our business and I tried to be particularly friendly. I eventually took heart and asked him: „Why were you so scared when we came to the statue there and what did you mean by: ‚It was he!‘?“ – „Well, you know,“ the workman said in embarrassment, “I have to admit something to you. In the last quarter I was here at your place with a couple of other workers. We made a mental note of a number of things, especially in the basement, which we could use well. One night we gathered together at a certain hour and wanted to break into your house. Everything was well planned; precisely to the minute we gathered at this house. But the whole time a man

