



Even today, I feel a chill down my spine when I think of that terrifying night. In my distress, I turned to St Joseph and prayed fervently to the Holy Family for salvation. The imprisonment lasted seven whole days without any food. I could not sleep because of hunger and worry for my family. Nevertheless, I must have slightly dozed off once due to exhaustion.

I was suddenly roused by a noise at the cave entrance. I jumped up and went down on my knees to offer GOD the last sacrifice of my life. Someone called out to me: „Come out, you are free!“ Before returning to my family, I went to church and made a penitent Confession. I wanted to thank GOD and St Joseph for their wonderful protection.

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- To be a delight to GOD every day.



In the month of March, we especially want to commemorate St Joseph, Patron of the holy Church.

Kind regards and blessing,

Sister Paula



March 2021

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Blessed Passing Away of St Joseph

Continued

Several persons were attracted to the house by the sweet fragrance that exhaled from the holy corpse of Joseph, and, finding it so fragrant, so beautiful and flexible, they were greatly astonished. When the set hour had come, the holy body of the glorious St Joseph was carried to the common cemetery, accompanied by relatives and acquaintances, and many others, but especially attended by the Redeemer of the world, His most holy Mother, and a great multitude of Angels.

On all these occasions and during all these ceremonial acts, Mary preserved her unalterable dignity. She did not permit her interior affliction to hinder her in making all the necessary provisions for the interment of her passed away Spouse, or for the service of her most holy SON. Mary acquitted herself in all with her humble greatheartedness.

Then she gave thanks to her SON, the true GOD, for all the favourable graces He had bestowed on her holy Spouse. The Redeemer of the world kindheartedly

accepted the thanks of His most holy Mother. He also promised her not to leave her until the time had come that He would take up His ministry in obedience to His Heavenly FATHER. (Mary of Agreda)

Supplication to St Joseph

The following is an almost 2000-year-old supplication to St Joseph. It was found 50 years after CHRIST. In the year 1505, it was sent by the Pope to Emperor Charles when he went to war. Whoever prays this prayer will not die a sudden death, nor drown, nor die by poison, nor fall into the hands of the enemy, nor perish in fire, nor be overcome by the enemy in battle. Pray it for nine days running. It was seldom heard that a petition was not answered in this way.

- „O holy Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, and so certain before the throne of GOD, I surrender to You all my interests and desires. I surrender to You all my loved ones, all the dying and all the Poor Souls.
- O Saint Joseph, do assist me by Your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from Your divine SON all spiritual blessings through JESUS CHRIST, our LORD, so that, having invoked here below Your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to You, the most loving of all fathers on earth.
- O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating You and the Infant JESUS asleep in Your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near Your heart. Press Him in my name

and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return this kiss when I draw my dying breath.

Saint Joseph, Patron of the dying, pray for us. Amen!“

Bandits Had Kidnapped Him

The missionary Fr. V. Basile SJ gave the following account of a family father from Dalmatia, who was a devotee of St Joseph:

One evening when I was returning home from working in the fields, I was suddenly attacked by two ambushers. They were armed and shouted a threatening “Stop!” at me. In a flash I took the safety catch off my carbine and wanted to fire, but I did not get the chance because one bandit hit my right shoulder so hard with his shotgun that I lost my weapon. Suddenly I was surrounded by five robbers. „Lead us into the house!“ they ordered. „No! Only over my dead body!“ I defied them, because I wanted to spare my wife and children the terror and fear that would surely have struck them at the sight of these raiders. I now had to mount a horse and follow them. They abducted me to a remote area and forced me to write a note to my family demanding five hundred (Spanish) reales as ransom. A boy who had accompanied us was forced to deliver this message to my wife. Meanwhile, the outlaws forced me to follow them blindfolded.

After five hours we reached a deserted area where they pushed me into a pitch-black hole in the rock, blocked the entrance with heavy stone blocks and then left.

