



him night and day! A whole world of beautiful dreams sinks into ruins. Then GOD Himself intervenes and instructs him that this Child of the Virgin Mother is the SON of GOD, that he, Joseph, should be His Nourishing Father.

Joseph and Mary are waiting for their great, incomprehensible bliss, for this Child, their LORD and GOD. At His cradle they will kneel down: humbly, believing and blissful. – But again a hardship: the edict of the Emperor Augustus orders them to Bethlehem. Joseph knocks on many doors, but there is no place in the inns. How ashamed he is of this cold world before GOD and before the GOD-Child of His Mother. In the first hour, he can offer nothing other than only the hard manger in a poor stable. How must his heart have bled over so much poverty and powerlessness, over so much hardness of the human hearts!

from "Directorium Spirituale," March 1977

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- May St Joseph be able to help all the needy families in their sorrows and anxieties in these times.



With kind regards and the blessing of St Joseph,

Brother Paula



February 2022

Lay Community of St Joseph

Workshop of St Joseph

His life as a young man in Jerusalem: how happy he was in his workshop – the work filled him – he slept there and took his very meagre meals, which mostly consisted of some bread and water mixed with wine. He only left this one room in order to go to the Temple or to buy the bare necessities. He led quite a frugal life. GOD constantly filled him with heavenly joys and sublime insights which satisfied him exceedingly. People who would only come for a conversation with him stayed clear of the workshop because Joseph avoided idle talk.

He was considered a simple-minded and foolish person, and so he lived in peace and solitude. Many people who used his services took advantage of his good nature for their own benefit. Joseph left the payment for the work done to their discretion. When he received money for his efforts, he thanked them as if it were a donation. He kept a small part for himself, and with the rest he supported the poor. Throughout his entire life, he had compassion for people who were in need, sorrow, and hopeless situations, which is why even today we may go to him with all our problems.

Like Mary, also Joseph vowed his virginity to GOD. Until then this was something unknown with the Jewish people. Here it becomes obvious how GOD worked in two human hearts which He prepared for the greatest secret, the coming of the Redeemer. Both knew from the Scriptures about the Messiah who should come and whom the Jews eagerly expected. However, they did not suspect that they themselves were the ones to whom GOD would entrust His SON. Again and again, GOD showed Joseph His good pleasure and also promised him to always provide him with the necessary grace to make sacrifices. GOD let Joseph recognise what great advantages there are in pleasing GOD through the virtue of purity. His life consisted of constant renunciations in everything. From his Angel he received instruction again and again to dedicate himself completely to the dear LORD, to do everything for His good pleasure and for the early coming of the Messiah. Very often he went to the Temple – in long and intimate prayers he remained there. Joseph was often granted great enlightenments, in which he recognised many secrets. In his humility he considered himself too small to be allowed to experience such great things.

The spirit of St Joseph was always occupied with GOD, his love to Him became ever more glowing. Joseph was ready for any sacrifice. In his whole life, he did not lack sacrifices and worries. He endured everything out of love for his GOD, for his JESUS, for his Bride. His patience, his humility, his forbearance, his obedience, his love made him angelic, and all this in his holy silence. He was given opportunities to struggle with enduring malicious people, he and his little family

lived from his manual labour, and he did everything with great joy and devotion, with humble surrender.

„Although you may have many Saints as intercessors, you should especially go to St Joseph, for he has great power with GOD.“ (St Theresa of Avila)

The Hardships in the Life of St Joseph

A Glimpse into His Life

He is the quiet, silent, unproblematic man, who goes his ways in unchangeable faithfulness to his mission, even if these must appear dark and mysterious to him, who does not collapse, even if things turn out completely different from what he thought they would. It is precisely these hardships

that make him so admirable and endearing. Hardships are tough, edgy, and painful. They make human life a cross. Man builds the longitudinal beam of his plans and hopes, the LORD GOD draws the crossbeam – the cross is completed.

How beautiful St Joseph must have imagined his life in Nazareth in his own house to be, in his workshop, beside that unique girl Mary, whose virginity he wanted to guard like a precious treasure. How beautiful it will be to serve GOD together with her through a quiet life of secret happiness! Then suddenly his plans are crossed! It cannot remain hidden from him that his young Bride is great with child. What brooding, mysterious thoughts torment

