

e-mail: lgs@laiengemeinschaft-des-hl-josef.com internet: www.laiengemeinschaft-des-hl-josef.com

Joseph, please help me, send me the right man, I want to become a good wife and mother." It was not long before a coincidence in the village down below led Cathy to a good, kind man. Today Catherine [Cathy] is a happy farmer's wife and mother of four sons. One of them is already resting in the nearby graveyard. She is firmly convinced that it is only owing to St Joseph that she has such a good husband. He is also called Joseph and one of her sons likewise received this beautiful name. (L.M.)

#### **This Month's Heartfelt Matters**

- Let us ask for the daily protection and blessing of St Joseph for all people, especially for the families.
- Let us also try throughout the day to have an honest and intimate relationship in prayer – from our powerlessness to the Almightiness of GOD. That will carry us through the day.

• • •

I wish everyone quite a lot of strength and faith in GOD!

Now I say goodbye again, with cordial Easter greetings and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Shother Paula



April 2022

# Lay Community of St Joseph

## The Noble, Chaste, Holy Joseph

The great friend of GOD, St Joseph, is of such noble descent that the holy Evangelists recorded his lineage back to David and Abraham, even back to Adam, which certainly no nobleman, be he of ever such noble lineage, can say of himself.

The virtue and holiness of Joseph are so great that no man can praise them worthily, because it seems that what GOD gave to other Saints only partially so to speak, He gave to His dearest Foster Father as a whole. Because He granted him the spiritual goods in such an abundance that such has hardly happened to another Saint.

His noble origin was from the noble house of David. His ancestors were partly Patriarchs, partly kings, partly Prophets, partly Princes of the people, amongst which many holy and outstanding men.

The fact that Joseph became a carpenter was not due to poverty, but due to virtue, because he despised the riches of this world and preferred to spend his time in honest manual labour rather than in idleness. Thus, St Joseph was the last of all the Patriarchs, whom the latter often prefigured, and all of them received more honour from St Joseph than he did from them.

### The Righteous Spouse of Mary

By his total self-surrender, Joseph expresses his generous love for the Mother of GOD by entering into marriage with her. Although he had decided to withdraw in order not to stand in the way of GOD's plan, which was to become reality in her, he keeps her with himself on the express instruction of the Angel and respects her exclusive belonging to GOD.

On the other hand, for Joseph it is from the marriage with Mary that his unique dignity and his rights over JESUS arise. Certainly, the dignity of the Mother of GOD stands so high that there can be nothing more elevating; but since between the blessed Virgin and Joseph a marriage bond had been tied, there is no doubt that he comes closer than anybody else to that highest dignity, by virtue of which the Mother of GOD far outshines all creatures.

Since marriage is the highest communion and friendship, with which according to its nature the community of goods connects itself, it follows from it that GOD, if He gave Joseph to the Virgin as her husband, He not only gave St Joseph to her as a life companion, witness of her virginity and protector of her honour, but also, that he may participate in her outstanding greatness by the marriage contract.

(Pope John Paul II)

### **In Grave Crisis**

It is precisely at this time that St Joseph will be the great helper because he continues to be the Patron of the Church, of the dying, the afflicted and the needy. He is, after all, the Patron of Christianity. No matter how much he is deleted from the church calendar, from the Prayer Books, he remains the all-round Patron. Joseph is the strong helper in any tribulation. The Church urgently needs the help of the powerful St Joseph. It definitely depends on each one of us how we support our hard-pressed Church, the families, humanity, by prayer and sacrifice. Let us repeatedly call Mary to our aid, the Mother of the Church, as well as St Joseph, the Patron Saint of the Church, the Terror of Demons. The power of Heaven can lead us out of this difficult time against all Satan's power, and it will.

## "Send Me the Right Man!"

The farm people on the lonely farm up in Miniberg had five children. One of them was Cathy, a very good girl. She had a special love for St Joseph, the Nursing Father of the Child JESUS. She loved him like her own father.

But her father died very soon. Then Cathy clung even more intimately to St Joseph and prayed to him daily: "St Joseph, be You now our father and help us!"

The brothers married one after the other, and when their sister entered the convent, she was now all alone. Then Cathy prayed again and again: "Saint