



Thoughts of St Joseph

„Before GOD's SON called me, He was already in Mary's womb. My calling was already certain, there was no doubt about it. Of course, I could have refused, but who refuses to help a child? He was already there and asked me to just be there, too, open to His presence. I do not need to think long, my calling is clear: He is my calling, my honour, my virginity. He is my obedience, my poverty. He is my way, my abode. He is my suffering, my bliss. In Him I lose myself, in Him I find myself. For Him I abandon everything and gain everything. For Him I endure fear, with Him I have confidence.“

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us pray for all those who have to endure severe strokes of fate, that they may have the strength to accept them with a devoted heart. Likewise, I ask that we may remember all the departed of our Community in our prayers.

„Saint Joseph, please always show us the will of GOD and His ways on this pilgrimage to eternity and always fix your eyes on us so that we may please GOD.“



Do not forget to greet the Immaculate Spouse of St Joseph quite often. One "Hail Mary" increases the glory of St Joseph in Heaven.

With very kind regards and
the blessing of St Joseph,

Sister Paula



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Lay Community of St Joseph

Joseph Is Aware of His Responsibility

In faith, in his worries and needs, Joseph did not simply seek a delaying solution. Joseph had the strong, profound faith that we see in him, which does not seek shortcuts, but takes responsibility in everything that happened to him in life, with open eyes and a wise mind. Joseph shows us to also take responsibility for others, to accept people as they are, especially the weak and poor, and commands us to love all, also the orphans, widows, and outcasts (Sermon on the Mount). Joseph is a wonderful example in this respect.

Joseph is the man through whom GOD ensures the history of salvation. He is a true miracle through which GOD saved the Child and the Mother. Heaven intervened by trusting in the courage and smart thinking of this Joseph, who moved into a cave in Bethlehem in the greatest distress and, despite all his poverty, skilfully prepared it, so that the Saviour could come. For Joseph it was a deep pain that he could not prepare a better cradle for the divine Child, and many tears flowed because of the coldness and lovelessness of the people. It was not only the winter cold that gave him a hard time, but rather, above

all, the stony hearts. Once again, St Joseph was struck by a deep blow when the Angel urged him in a dream to immediately flee with the Child and His Mother – into a foreign, pagan land. The Child and His Mother were in acute danger because of Herod. Joseph immediately made arrangements for the bare necessities of life. With great confidence in GOD, the Holy Family set out that very night. The journey was very long – days long – wearisome and dangerous in winter conditions. The cold quite wore them out. Joseph was very worried about the journey there, as he was responsible for the two holiest people. Cold, hunger, thirst and fatigue were their companions and they had practically no shelter in the long and barren desert regions. The real shelter for all three was usually the cloak of St Joseph. Mary and Joseph were nevertheless comforted, for they carried the Child JESUS with them in the company of many holy Angels.

What unshakeable trust of St Joseph! Let us go to him with all our worries, big and small. He is an all-round helper and always has an open ear. But let us not forget to give him joy – to keep his life in mind, to follow his example in many things and to thank him.

Joseph – Helper in All Needs and Fears

In all situations in life, Joseph was able to speak his fiat as Mary did at the Annunciation and as JESUS did in Gethsemane. JESUS and Mary offered their obedience to Joseph, the head of the family. Joseph in his humility saw himself as the servant of both.

In the seclusion of Nazareth, the Child JESUS spoke a lot about the fulfilment of the will of the Heavenly FATHER. For

JESUS, Mary, Joseph this was their daily food to please GOD with it. Through the exercise of his fatherhood and through his many sufferings, trials, and tribulations, Joseph had been called to be an actual servant of salvation in this great mystery of Redemption! Joseph was a strong and courageous man. He had the ability to accept life as it is, even when there were unexpected times of suffering or when something was incomprehensible to him. In such situations he always commended himself to the FATHER in Heaven. He always received the answer. – How are we people often doing? There are so many things in life that people do not understand, that confuse and cause them anxiety. The Angel said to Joseph: „Son of David, do not be afraid.“ Does he not seem to be saying this to us people as well? Even Mary, the Mother of GOD, often said when she appeared: „Do not be afraid!“ We must not resign but give way to great hope when something happens that we did not bring about ourselves.

Let us learn to accept life as it is and give it a hidden meaning. In this way we can begin life anew in a wonderful way if we have the courage to do so. St Joseph will give us the necessary courage. Let us trust him! It does not matter when everything seems to have gone wrong, even when meanwhile things cannot be undone. If our heart condemns us – GOD does not. His heart is infinitely greater, wiser, and more merciful.

„Saint Joseph, lead us on the way that GOD has ordained for us with His wonderful, loving FATHER's heart.“

