



gained an even greater trust in him through this wonderful help and will turn to him again and again, especially also for more patience and joy in suffering.

(Excerpt from "And again St Joseph helped" by A. M. Weigl)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Father Joseph, you see the distressed families in which true peace simply does not want to come. Please, will You arrange it. You are able to do everything before GOD's throne!“



A Beautiful Prayer to St Joseph

„Dear Saint Joseph, who should not love and honour You, who are so worthy of honour and love. You are of noble descent, of handsome appearance, friendly to socialise with, honourable in manners and adorned with all virtues. You push no one away from You, You despise no one, You abandon no one, but You welcome all who come to You and obtain mercy for all who call upon You. Therefore, I call upon You from my heart and commend myself to Your fatherly protection. O You kind, O You faithful, O You merciful Father Joseph, obtain for me from GOD grace and amendment of my sinful life. Stand by me before the righteous GOD as my dear intercessor in life and in death. Amen!“

With kind regards, best wishes,
and the blessing of St Joseph,

Sister Paula



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Lay Community of St Joseph

St Joseph and Herod

St Joseph is not a celebrity in the ordinary sense of the word. It can be summed up in the sentence: he was the most holy Spouse and the best father of mankind. All other things that people are in the habit of saying and writing about great men pale into insignificance beside this merit. Let us read about the life of St Joseph, which is so impressive and worthy of imitation, e.g. in "The Life of St Joseph" by C. Baij.

The greatness of this father probably shines out best in his battle with Herod. Here Joseph becomes a hero and a martyr. Joseph emphasises to the tyrant his right of ownership over the Child, not with words, but with deeds, and sacrifices his peace, his existence, his home to save the Child. Nothing proves so much the seriousness of the situation as the fact that we are forced at every moment to prove things that used to be a matter of course. In this time of expropriation, the question of property is being ignored. Example: parents have their children taken away, somewhere, never to appear again. The Angel said: „Take the Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt!“ Joseph, the man in charge, immediately recognised the danger. He

instantly set out and fled to Egypt with Mother and Child. There are cases in which fleeing means bravery and remaining in danger means madness. This was the case with Joseph. He would rather live abroad, unemployed but free, than hand over his most Beloved One to the tyrant.

„Only kindred spirits and imitators have the right to call themselves devotees. Whoever does not make the principles which St Joseph embodied in his life his own and wish to follow them, may want to scatter his incense elsewhere.“

(Saying of the blessed priest Robert Mäder)

Joseph's Faithfulness in His Election

Trials have always accompanied St Joseph. Probably one of the hardest trials, which hit him severely and robbed him of sleep for days, so that he spent the nights in fervent pleading and tears, was the fact that Mary was with child, and he was not the father of the Child. It seemed to him that only one thing remained: to separate from her. His pain is incomprehensible for he loved Mary, she meant everything to him. He had also recognised her purity more and more – and yet ...? Like Abraham, Joseph was ready without hesitation to make the sacrifice if it is really required of him. But he was still waiting for a sign from Above. His constant prayers were: „LORD, Your will be done! Hallowed be Your Name!“ Joseph wanted to honour GOD in everything, to please Him through his great trust, and he certainly matured a lot in his sacrificing. It was a great sacrificial preparation to become the Foster Father of the SAVIOUR.

With what reverential awe did Joseph hear the message of the Angel to accept Mary, the Bride of the HOLY SPIRIT, and to protect and guard her with great care. Joseph's heart was opened wide. He now saw his vocation very clearly: to guard, to nourish the Mother of the SAVIOUR, and to be a veil against the outside world and hell, protecting and hiding her. The holy silence of St Joseph – it concerns us.

Even a Fully Automatic Washing Machine

I had been suffering severely for a long time and on top of that I had to take care of my 80-year-old mother, who has a heart condition, as well as do the household. Until now, I had to do all the laundry by hand myself because we were not financially able to buy a washing machine. So, after each washing day, severe states of exhaustion arose, sometimes even with fever. After that I was in bed for eight days.

When we received the book “St Joseph – your helper, too”, I read that St Joseph had so often helped in difficult situations. So, I drew a washing machine on a piece of paper and placed it at the feet of the statue of St Joseph. After about four weeks I wrote to a lady about my problem. She offered to buy me a fully automatic washing machine. Not only that, but she also wanted to give me an electric dryer. Although I did not want to accept the latter as too much of a good thing, she insisted on it anyway. Since then, I need not do the washing so tediously any more and it has given me a noticeable relief. I would never have been able to spend so much money on a washing machine. A thousand thanks to St Joseph for this! You can imagine that I have

