



was finished, my false shame yielded and I could honestly confess my sins in the Confessional without resistance. Thus, my anguish ended.

Through this experience I came to know the power of St Joseph. I purchased his image with the intention of never separating from it again. From that time on I was able to overcome all temptations and received so many graces that I can never thank him enough for it." (from "Venerate St Joseph" by M.-Th. Isenegger)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us ask St Joseph for the strength to bear all the discomforts and inconveniences of life with patience and devotion so that many souls may be saved.
- Let us also remember all the departed. November is the month of the Poor Souls.



With all love and best wishes, with kind regards and as always the blessing of St Joseph,

Sister Paula



November 2022

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Beauty of His Soul

Joseph is said to have been a young man when he entered into matrimony with Mary, handsome in form, kind in manner, smart in intellect, noble in countenance, honourable in speech, morals, affections, faultless before GOD, most like the Mother of GOD. When I imagine St Joseph with all his merits, he must have been an extraordinarily fine man. What the Psalmist prophesied of CHRIST may also roughly fit him: „You are the most handsome amongst the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore, GOD has blessed You forever.“ The Mother of GOD could also say with the bride in the Song of Solomon: „My bridegroom is white and ruddy, chosen amongst many thousands.“ The prophecy of the Patriarch Jacob also meant him when he said: „A blooming youth is Joseph, lovely to look upon ...“

St Joseph's virtues shone forth from his eyes and the beauty of his body revealed the beauty of his soul. Joseph's holiness is beyond expression because he was to be married to the most holy Virgin GOD had ever created. Because of his married state, Joseph had to be devoted to

Mary with extraordinary love. Therefore, he also had to be of such holiness that he was worthy to be loved by Mary.

Mary Clarifies the Matter with Joseph

... A knock at the cottage startles Mary. She puts down her work and goes to open the door. She tries to hide the roundness of her body with her loose dress. In front of her stands Joseph. Mary's face turns white like a host. She looks at him with a questioning and sad expression. Joseph looks at her with pleading eyes. They look at each other in silence. „At this hour?“ asks Mary. „Do you need anything, Joseph? What do you want to tell me? Come, enter. Speak, Joseph. What do you want from me?“ – „Your forgiveness.“ Joseph bends down as if to kneel. But Mary, otherwise usually reserved, grasps him resolutely by the shoulders and prevents him from doing so. „My forgiveness! I have nothing to forgive you, Joseph. I cannot but always thank you for all you have done in here during my absence, and for the love you show me.“

Joseph looks at her and two large tears form in his deep eyes. „Forgive me, Mary! I mistrusted you. Now I know. I have been lacking against love, I have accused you in my heart. Even a suspicion is an insult. I did not understand you as I should have. I have sinned against you.“ – „Oh! No! You have not sinned! I have nothing to forgive you for. On the contrary, I ask your forgiveness for the pain I have caused you.“ ... „Joseph, I have obeyed. GOD demanded this obedience from me. It cost me a great deal. But I could only obey.“ Joseph takes Mary's tender hands in his strong ones and gives them a kiss. „But now provision must be made,“

he says, glancing at Mary's blessed body. (from “The Poem of the Man-God” by Maria Valtorta, abridged and adapted)

He Who Believes and Trusts Cannot Perish

A young man who had lost his wife was recently asked: „In what way has your wife's death changed your life?“ His answer was impressive: „I have become more careful and mellow in my dealings with others.“ When suffering and hardship can change us, break us open like that, it is also only natural that we may better understand the storms in other people's lives, give them understanding and trust, and thus help to calm the waves. We are all in the same boat. And those who believe and trust cannot perish. (R. R.)

How Beneficial It Is to Carry the Picture (or a Medal) of St Joseph with You

Father Barry said that a person, whose name he had to conceal, recently wrote him the following letter: „I bound myself in my youth by a vow of chastity. But then I had the misfortune to break the same. Ashamed of my failure, I dared not confess the sin and abused the holy Sacraments. My guilty conscience found no rest, neither by day nor by night. I saw myself always close to plunging into the eternal flames. In my confused and sad state, it occurred to me to take refuge in St Joseph. That was a good idea. GOD gave me the grace to follow it. For nine days I prayed the Divine Office of St Joseph with all devotion. As soon as this devotion

