



intervention of St Joseph that I met this good man. We have become friends and things are now going so well with the animals in the stable. „Thank you eternally, dear Father Joseph, for this beneficial encounter!“

(A. M. Weigl)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- It is in the spirit of St Joseph to remember the needy people throughout the world in many ways, but also perhaps nearby needy families.



„He who does not stretch out his hands to the poor to give them a gift, will also stretch them out in vain to GOD to obtain pardon for his sins.“

(St Bernard of Siena)

To all our benefactors I say: „May GOD reward you eternally!“ May the LORD reward you according to His rich bounty!

With heartfelt New Year's greetings and the blessing of Saint Joseph, I say goodbye again,

*Paula Schneider*



January 2023

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### At the Turn of the Year

Looking back on this year,  
my heart is full of thanks.  
For every need, however great,  
in GOD's love sank.

The faith GOD gave me,  
lifted up my glance,  
so that even in the dark  
I never lost track of the SAVIOUR.

It led me through joy and sorrow  
and taught me to understand  
that only in trust in GOD  
should you go all your ways.

So I was often full of mirth,  
enjoying sunny heights  
and never was I sad,  
when things did go awry.

Therefore, with silent thanks  
I place into GOD's hand  
all that this year brought me  
in hardship and in happiness.

(Josef Hüttner)

## Journey to Bethlehem

How edifying and deeply moving may have been the conversation of Joseph and Mary on this journey, when they spoke of the mercy of GOD, who was to send His only begotten SON into the world to make all men blessed. But great was the pain of St Joseph when, on that night when the Eternal Word was born, he and Mary were nowhere accepted in Bethlehem, so that he was forced to seek shelter in a stable.

Who can understand the love and joy of St Joseph when he saw with his own eyes the SON of GOD after his birth, having grown into a little child, when he saw the cave brightly lit, when at the same time he heard the Angels surrounding their LORD in human appearance and singing praises to Him! Then Joseph fell on his knees weeping with joy. His joy was further increased when he saw the shepherds coming that same night, called by the Angel to worship. Later, the three kings came from distant lands to worship the King of Heaven. What experiences and joys for St Joseph after so many and difficult trials.

(from "Venerate St Joseph" by M. T. Isenegger)

## When Father Still Prays

It was after Christmas. The carriages of the passenger train from Cruz Alta to Santa Maria were jam-packed with travellers. In one of the middle carriages, the tense interest of the occupants was focused on a young man sitting in a corner with a small child on his knees, who apparently made his first attempts at speech. The innocent little one's eyes wandered from face to face, and returned their friendly



smiles because all were obviously delighted with the child's behaviour. Suddenly the little one let out his clear, loud voice: „Name FATHER – SON,“ and a soft white little hand went to his forehead and then to his chest in an attempt to make the sign of the cross. Then also: „Hail Mary, Mother of GOD. Amen!“ The young man was almost somewhat embarrassed. The friendly smiles of approval of his fellow travellers that met his eyes showed him that so many Catholic mothers and fathers had understood the meaning of the child's words.

## Try the Holy Name of JESUS

Some two years ago we often had some bad luck in our stable. I was on my way to a kind of healer. I knew her name, but not her address. I had already asked three persons for the address, but nobody knew. Then something strange happened: a man stepped up to me and asked if I was looking for something in particular. I explained him my intentions. After a long conversation he said that he, too, had tried something similar, but this address was doubtful. „Do have a try with our LORD GOD, with the most holy Name of JESUS,“ he said. „My name is also Joseph like yours and I am a farmer like you. If you want, you can visit me sometime.“ He told me where he lived, showed me the way to his estate and said goodbye. I had never seen this man before. He had not kept me from going to the address I was looking for. He just said: „Think carefully about whom you seek help from!“ Today I know that I would have truly gone in the wrong direction with the desired address. I am firmly convinced that it was an