



Saint Joseph, You show us what it means to live. You had understood how to really live. Your life did not end with Your death, it was transformed into a higher one. That this is no idle talk is proven by the many miracles that happen through Your intercession.

Oh, may Your silent sacrifices, Your devotion to the will of GOD, Your selfless charity and Your uncomplaining endurance spur us on to a similar life.“

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Do not put off your conversion, for you know neither the day nor the hour. May St Joseph always remind us.



The month of May is again assigned to the Mother of GOD. Let us try, as best we can, to fulfil her wishes for humanity, which she made known to the children at the great pilgrimage site of Fatima.

With kind regards and the blessing of St Joseph, I say good-bye again,

Paula Schneider



May 2023

Lay Community of St Joseph

A Human Being Like Us

Certainly, Mary was a human being like us in this earthly life. And yet she was not, she, the most pure and immaculate. Let us consider what that means: immaculate! Let us try to feel our way into the depths of her heart. She was the quiet, humble, withdrawn one, with her thoughts and heart more in Heaven than on earth.

Mary was startled when GOD called her by name through the Angel. GOD asked her questions. Mary's question: „How is this to happen?“ Mary was astonished. The Angel of the LORD said to her: „You will be overshadowed by the HOLY SPIRIT and give birth to a SON. You shall give him the Name JESUS. He will save mankind from their sins.“ Mary's response: „Be it done unto me according to Your word.“ Heaven held its breath waiting for this yes. What joy of all Heaven! What joy in the little house in Nazareth! Mary and Joseph both prayed for the Messiah since childhood. Wherever He would come, they would have gone there to serve Him. Never ever did they think in their humility and poverty that He would come to them. Their SON JESUS grew up and became

independent. Soon the years came when He went entirely His own way and Mary went with Him from Nazareth until beneath the Cross. She kept everything in her heart. It all depends on the heart alone, on love and perfect devotion! Mary, like her divine SON JESUS, fulfilled the will of GOD and thus became the Co-Redemptrix.

St Joseph had continuously in his mind's eye the true cross on which his beloved JESUS was meant to die. Joseph suffered unspeakably and wept a lot. Beside his daily work, this suffering literally wore him down.

In his life, St Joseph had his fair share of suffering and hardship, which is why he has a great understanding and sympathy also for our hardships. Because he as Foster Father of JESUS was allowed to carry the Almighty in his arms, he also has the power to really be able to help people in a thousand needs according to GOD's holy will.

Four Years ago Still Most Painful Arthrosis

One day – I was 71 years old – I incurred severe pain in my knee joints (arthrosis), so that I had considerable discomfort, for example, when climbing stairs, getting into cars or on the bus.

Doctor Foerster said about it: „This is age-related wear and tear of the joints, which you just have to live or put up with.“ He tried bandages, ointments, radiation, etc. – but it was all of no use. Then, by chance, I stumbled across a small booklet that I had brought back from my visit to the Basilica of St Therese of the Child JESUS in Lisieux. I glanced through it



and read the following sentence: „If you have worries and sorrows on this earth, whether spiritual or physical, then turn to St Joseph, the Foster Father of JESUS! And if you do not believe me, try it yourself; he always helps!“

I was touched by this kind, popular statement. On the very same day, I began the nine-day devotion to St Joseph. This shows that not only the great St Teresa of Avila (Spain) so particularly intensely venerated St Joseph, but also the little St Therese of the Child JESUS (France).

I carried out the novena with unlimited confidence, hoping for St Joseph's help. At the end of the ninth day, the pain caused by every movement of the knees had completely disappeared, as if blown away, and they have not reappeared. That was four years ago. In the meantime, I have reached the age of 75, can easily walk up to three hours a day and also use my bicycle every day. Unrestricted trust in St Joseph is really able to achieve a lot. However, giving thanks through generous donations for the needy must not be forgotten.

(Theodor D., February 1977)
(Excerpt from "And Again St Joseph Helped" by A. M. Weigl)

„Saint Joseph,

we should not only come to You begging. It is much more important to thank You, but above all to imitate Your life, for what can still save us today are You both: You and Mary – with Your combined intercession before the throne of GOD.