



St Joseph,

he is the man on the edge, in the shadow. He is the silent help all around. GOD constantly intervened in his life, with instructions and missions, with a new start. He is the man who went and acted in willing obedience. The word of GOD was binding and self-evident for him. Joseph was always willing to be of service. „Saint Joseph, teach us this willingness.“

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us remember all families in need in our prayers and our daily work.
- A member of our community is earnestly and urgently imploring St Joseph for help. We want to support this person! By government orders he is danger of losing his home. Let us beseech St Joseph this month! I ask you all very much for it. May GOD reward you all!



Oh, how ungrateful we are; the dear LORD wants to make us happy, and we do not want to.

With many good wishes and the daily blessing of St Joseph, I remain,

Sister Paula



June 2023

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Simplicity of St Joseph

GOD commissioned Joseph to receive the Blessed Virgin as his faithful Bride, although her pregnancy seemed to accuse her. The SON of GOD wanted to dwell in Joseph's house, to grow up under his care. Joseph felt completely unworthy of this, but fulfilling GOD's will was his sole desire. Only the utmost simplicity was able to make St Joseph's heart so docile and obedient without him questioning himself. He never had even the slightest doubt about the purity of his Bride, but he did not find any explanation and was in an inner turmoil as to what he should do. He was so just that GOD had to intervene. An Angel of the LORD told him that Mary had conceived through the HOLY SPIRIT. It was not difficult for him to understand that the sublime purity of his most holy Bride required the intervention of Heaven.

GOD wanted Joseph to accept the Child as SON without having given life to the Child because otherwise Mary's virginity would not be immaculate. Joseph, however, shared the night watches, sorrows, and fears with Mary.

To this holy Child, who had no earthly father, Joseph substituted the father.

Joseph had a very soft and humble heart, willing in everything for the desires of GOD. When the FATHER in Heaven asks him to accept His SON, He also gives him the heartfelt feelings, the love and care, the loving security that a true father gives. Mary herself called Joseph a father when they both, completely shattered, found the twelve-year-old JESUS in the temple.

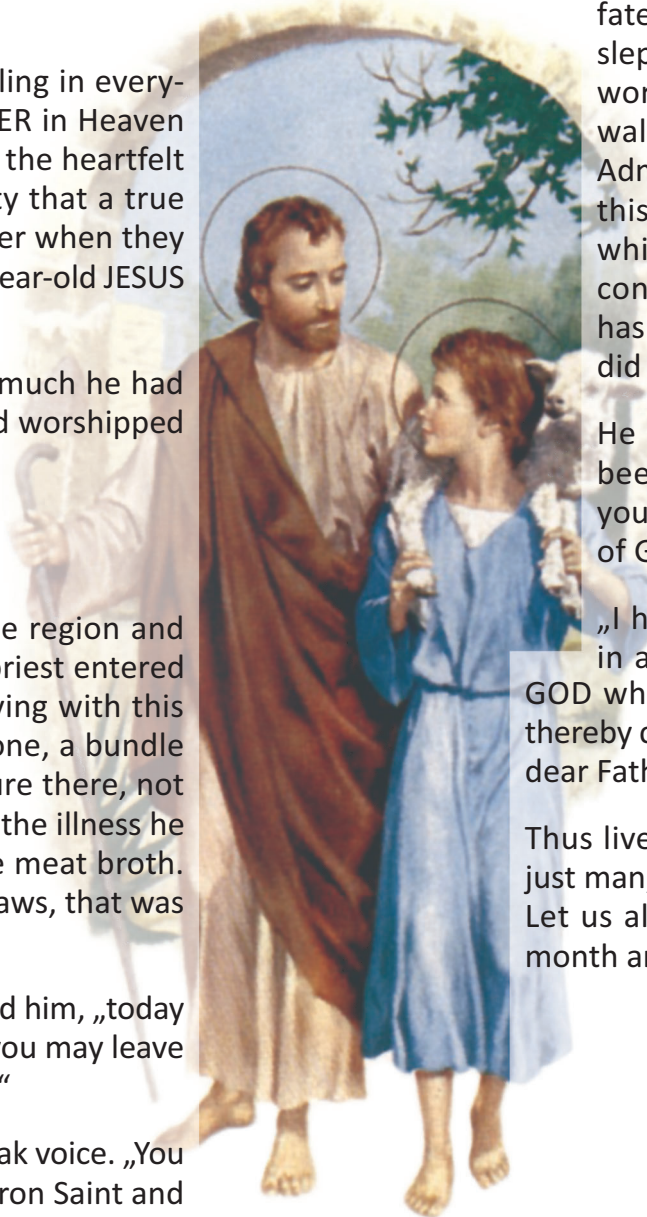
From Joseph's anxiety for JESUS we see how much he had taken on the responsibility and truly loved and worshipped the divine SON.

Take St Joseph as Your Patron in Death

It was during an epidemic that struck a whole region and especially raged among the poor. A merciful priest entered a low, damp stable where an old man was dying with this contagious disease. The dying man was all alone, a bundle of hay served as his bed. There was no furniture there, not even a chair, because right at the beginning of the illness he had sold everything to be able to afford some meat broth. On the black bare walls hung an axe and two saws, that was all his wealth when he could still use his arms.

„Do not despair, dear friend,“ the clergyman told him, „today the LORD will show you great mercy, for soon you may leave this world that has only brought you suffering.“

„Only suffering?“ the dying man replied in a weak voice. „You are mistaken. I have taken St Joseph as my Patron Saint and



role model. Just like him, I never complained about my fate. I did not know hatred and envy and so I always slept peacefully. During the day I went about my tiring work, at night I rested. With the tools you see on the wall, I earned the bread that always tasted delicious. Admittedly, I was poor, but so was St Joseph, and until this day I was in fairly good health. If I recover again, which I am not convinced of, however, I will work in construction and I will continue to praise GOD, who has taken care of me until now.“ The astonished priest did not quite know how to answer this sick man.

He resumed: „Dear friend, although your life has not been too burdensome for you, you must now resign yourself to leaving it, for one must submit to the will of GOD.“

„I have managed well in life,“ the dying man replied in a clear voice, „I also face death calmly. So I thank GOD who gave me life and now lets me die in His grace, thereby coming to Him. The time has come, I feel it. Farewell, dear Father!“

Thus lived and died this pious worker in great peace, this just man, who had taken St Joseph as his Patron and model. Let us also take this great Saint as our model during this month and forever!

(Excerpt from “The Glories of Saint Joseph”,
Publisher Traditions Monastiques)