



opposed his plan in every possible way because they had a different plan for their son. Tired of constant contradiction, the young man abandoned pious exercises, became indifferent and careless, and indulged in the lusts of the world. Only then did the parents realise that their behaviour had brought their son to ruin. Through letters and friends, they tried to get their son to return to his parents' home. All in vain! In deep sorrow they begged St Joseph and prayed in a novena for the return of their son. Behold, already on the third day of the novena he returned voluntarily and asked for forgiveness. When asked how this came about, he answered: „One day a strange feeling of longing for GOD seized me, so that the hustle and bustle of the world became disgusting to me. So, I immediately set out to live a different life.“

(Fr von Barry, SJ)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- „Saint Joseph, help us to pray the Rosary so that into every 'Hail Mary' we put all the tenderness of our hearts for Your joy and especially for the joy of Mary!“



With kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Paula Schneider*



August 2023

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### Words Teach, Examples Inspire

With devout people, faith and devotion grow in dealing with divine things. Unfortunately, too often, habit diminishes respect. Often, there is also outward exaggeration in religious matters and this becomes more of a show before men rather than promoting the sanctification of the person.

St Joseph was constantly together with JESUS. This intimacy, however, did not at all diminish his respect towards the SAVIOUR. On the contrary, it gripped his soul more and more deeply. Amazement pervaded Joseph more and more strongly and led him into deeper and deeper knowledge. This insight caused in him an ever increasing and constant self-denial. The more Joseph absorbed the words of JESUS, and heard and saw the humility of JESUS, the more his own humility grew. (Proverb: „Tell me who you walk with and I will tell you who you are.“) Besides Mary, there was never a greater and humbler worshipper of this divine Majesty than Joseph, hidden in his heart, of course. Those consecrated to GOD and the faithful who receive JESUS in

Holy Communion are to imitate the respect and love that St Joseph offered to GOD made man.

In his heart, Joseph was the constant listener, the silent one in spirit and with his tongue, in order to act in accordance with GOD's will. Do we obey as he did without questioning? Do we allow the HOLY SPIRIT to work, the Sanctifier of our souls? Joseph was completely devoted to Him. Do we, as Joseph did, cover the gifts that GOD gives us with the veil of holy silence? Despite our faults, let us keep our eyes fixed on eternal values, try hard and never be discouraged.

### The Parish Priest of Ars

once heard the words at the end of a confession of sins: „Apart from that, I have done nothing.“ The indifference towards sin expressed in them affected him deeply: „What? You have done nothing apart from that? What else would you want to have done?“ He often sighed and cried while the penitents recounted their sins to him, and this very much touched the hearts of many an indifferent and hardened sinner, who ended up crying themselves, too.

### Others Would Say: „Sheer Coincidence!“

Last summer I wrote in my booklet of Joseph, that St Josef may help that our six-year-old Martin, who was about to start school and, unfortunately, was regularly heavily suffering from severe tonsillitis and spasmodic coughing fits, might come to a strengthening cure. Although it was no longer possible to receive an appointment for a cure before the beginning of term, our Martin, to our great joy, was not



ill all winter long apart from a slight cold. That was the first “healthy” winter in 6 years.

Our second boy, Bernhard, was still not able to walk at the beginning of March this year at the age of one year and nine months. On 10 March, we began a general novena to St Joseph. How happy I was when Bernhard took the first, independent steps precisely on 19 March, that is, on the ninth day of our novena! Dear St Joseph! He seems to take special pleasure in helping me, since I was born on his feast day. I would like to thank St Josef from my heart for this year's “birthday present”!

For many weeks this past winter, I suffered from severe depression and anxiety. Always on Wednesday, the day of St Josef, things became easier for me every time, sometimes everything just seemed to have vanished into thin air. A novena to the holy Angels brought me to people who could help me. The great trust that my husband and I have in the Blessed in Heaven and in the holy Angels is primarily due to the beautiful books from Altötting about Mary, St Joseph and the holy Angels.

May GOD reward them eternally!

Mother F.W.

Excerpt from “And Again Saint Joseph Helped” by Rev. A.M. Weigl

„Father Joseph, in You we find a helper and protector in all our concerns, You protect us from all enemies.“

### Respect a Spiritual Calling

A young man was very virtuous thanks to his Christian upbringing and decided to enter a religious order. His parents