



„The more ominously the times are on their way, the more frighteningly the signs of it increase, the more reasons we have to attach ourselves ever more closely and more humbly to GOD.“ (St Vincent Pallotti)

„Nothing seems more wonderful than to silence all senses and to come to oneself and to hold discourse with oneself and GOD.“ (St Gregory of Nazianzus)

This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- That people may recognise how much GOD is being offended and injured with all the sins of the whole world. So many people are on a very slippery slope. Let us ask Mary and Joseph to intercede with GOD for conversion of these people.



I wish everyone the best of luck, a joyful mind and much confidence.

With kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Paula



September 2023

Lay Community of St Joseph

The Longing of St Joseph

Yes, it was great. He silently asked himself: „Will the Messiah allow, accept my services anyway? – It is true that I am not worthy of it, but I will nevertheless ask so long that He will accept my services out of compassion. If GOD is infinitely good, so will the Messiah be.“ Thus, Joseph was more and more comforted in his heart. In this way, he conversed with GOD throughout the day. He was drawn full of eagerness and full of longing for the Redeemer. Joseph touched the hearts of the people who met him, mocked him. With his silence and patient endurance he achieved that these people turned inwards. Silently and devotedly, Joseph bore the burden and offered up everything.

Suffering and sorrow, mockery, and malicious criticism – let us surrender all these things to GOD because He knows about everything. Let us try to bear the bitter hours and experiences in silence because this has infinite value, and GOD will confirm it to us with new bestowals of grace in which we in our turn let other souls share. It is important that good works are only apparent to GOD.

We, members of the Lay Community, want to be on our guard, and cautious in spreading information, be it our own problems or stories that have been reported to us. At lightning speed so many things have been spread around, often no longer corresponding to the truth. It is hardly possible to undo this. St Joseph does not teach us silence for nothing.

Old Prayer to St Joseph

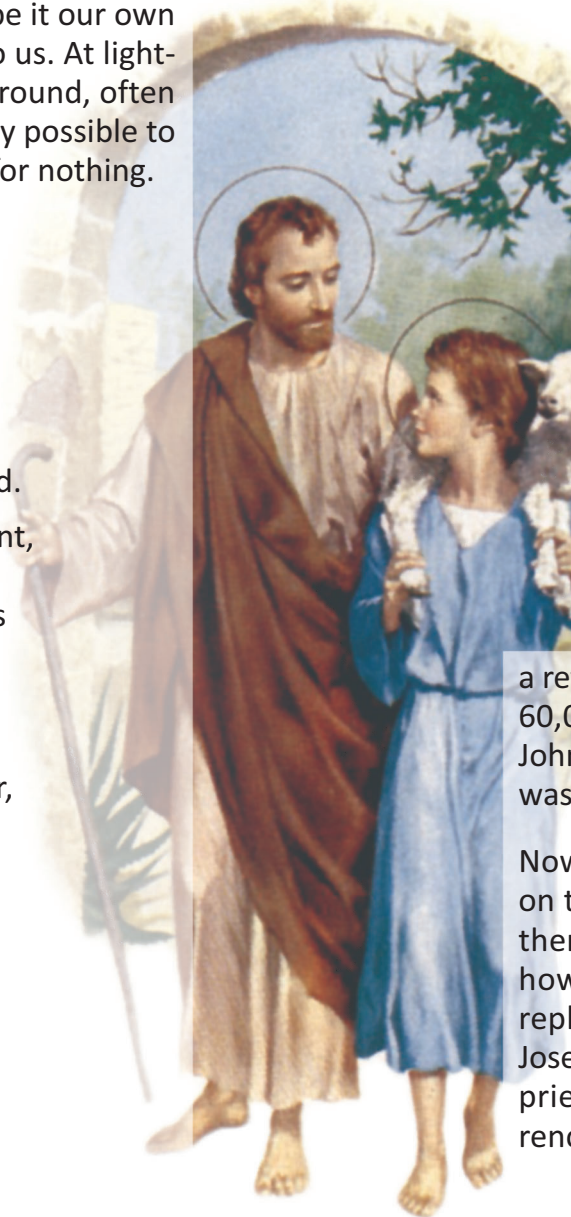
Saint Joseph, look from Heaven
on Your poor foster child,
that I may find the true bridge
in the miserable turmoil of the world.

I would so much like to become a saint,
but You know my evil heart,
and see how struggles and troubles
cause me many a pain.

Today I choose You as my father
and teacher, guide, friend,
for You, good Saint, are a counsellor,
who means well by me.

O Saint Joseph, my soul
is so poor and miserable,
do see how I daily fail,
unable to make progress.

Holy, holy I want to become,
speak for me an effective word.
O Saint Joseph, always be on earth
my father and my refuge.



„Now That We Take Up the Professional Work of St Joseph ...“

It was in the twenties. Father John Haw, founder of the Federation of St John, wanted to build a retreat house. People shook their heads: „How can the man start building such a big house in this day and age, although he actually has no money?“ Smiling, Father John replied: „I have a different banker from you!“ For him the trust in GOD the FATHER was the essential meaning of his life.

A garden and a terrace were still missing for it to be a usable retreat house, cost: 60,000 German Marks. Father Haw had no penny. But he knew: „GOD wills it, so He will also help!“

In Cologne, a spiritual friend from his youth met him on the platform: „I have heard that you want to build a retreat house. Can you use money? Today I was given back 60,000 Marks in mortgage money, you can have it.“ Father John immediately took his friend to the notary and the case was settled. Garden and terrace were bought.

Now the beautiful retreat house “Johannesburg” was built on the Rhine. But the money only lasted to finish the roof, then it was low tide again. „We do not have a penny left, how should we go on now?“ Father John was asked. He replied: „Now that we take up the professional work of St Joseph, how can it go wrong?“ And indeed! One day a Dutch priest came and brought the required sum in Dutch currency. (adapted from Stephan Berghoff)