



could know that he himself was meant by it. My mum then ran as fast as she could until she was a little out of the forest. Then the eerie stranger had disappeared. She thanked St Joseph from the bottom of her heart for this miraculous rescue from danger.

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If through a human being a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth is carried out into the world, their life has meaning and nothing happens without the will of GOD. I am certain that everything that happens, however bad it may seem, always leads to good in reality.

#### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

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I would like to say a mighty "May GOD reward you" to all our benefactors in manifold ways in the past year!

With warm New Year's greetings, all good wishes and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Sister Paula*

January 2024



### Lay Community of St Joseph

#### GOD Works Everywhere – Also Through His Saints

GOD has to assist us everywhere, we depend on GOD's help a million times every day – in our natural and supernatural life. Countless as the sands of the sea are His blessings. And if I cannot love GOD in perfection in this earthly life, may my knowledge and love at least increase here in time so that there may be perfect joy yonder in eternity – here in hope and yonder in reality.

So we see that there is plenty of work for St Joseph concerning us. May he bring about everything so that we do not lose our joy to take upon ourselves our daily worries and labours without tiring or slackening, and that we are always aware that by doing so we can save hundreds, even thousands of people. If we work in this spirit in the vineyard of the LORD, our dear GOD will give priority to saving our families and relatives too.

St Joseph also had his own Family close to his heart. In fear and anxiety, he and Mary searched for their JESUS. They thought that He was also looking for them, but when they found Him in the Temple, they saw that He was fully occupied in the circle of the high priests. Mary's question: „Child, why have You done this to us? Your Father and I

have been looking for You in pain ...“ was understandable. Nevertheless, she knew about the divine doings in the background. She wisely kept everything in her heart. In his life St Joseph was prepared for surprises. JESUS replied: „Did you not know that I must be in what is My FATHER’s?“ Mary called Joseph His Father – and JESUS now spoke of another FATHER. Joseph took the mysterious word of his Boy JESUS, who had come of age, to heart; it prepared him for new sacrifices in the service of the Holy Family. Joseph trusted and let things happen. After the happy recovery of JESUS in the Temple, they travelled back to Nazareth. JESUS was subject to His parents Mary and Joseph, grew older and increased in favour with GOD and the people. Joseph witnessed His growing up to full manhood and enjoyed his beloved Foster Son.

Joseph became very tired in his strenuous carpentry work and was glad to have a strong support in his JESUS. As a carpenter, Joseph had to do very varied and also hard work. Only when JESUS was able to take over the carpentry work was Joseph able to leave. – Before the SAVIOUR began His three years of public teaching, Joseph was called away to his eternal home. Heaven knew that Joseph would not have been able to witness the torture of his beloved JESUS. Joseph was no longer present at the wedding in Cana. During the public life of JESUS, his name was not mentioned. And the fact that the crucified SAVIOUR entrusted His Mother to John would have been hardly understandable during her husband’s lifetime. St Joseph lived to be around 60 years old. He had done his full part in the redemptive work from childhood. With his most pure Spouse Mary – virgin like her, he went on the great sacrificial journey. (On Golgotha, St Joseph received Mary

and JESUS under the cross. He stood with Mary under the cross.) St Joseph’s heart was broken by his overwhelming love. This mysterious fire burnt in him and consumed him.

„Thank you, St Joseph, for Your holy, wonderful, sacrificial life, which we want to keep in mind again and again.“

### **„Joseph, run! Joseph! Joseph!“**

It was in 1891 when my mother wrote a letter to her relatives about how she had got into difficulties and as a result was allowed to experience the help of St Joseph. My mother often recounted this experience to me, I know it by heart.

My mother was travelling on business and had to go from village to village. One day, a man appeared in front of her in a short stretch of forest. When she saw him, she sang a Marian song out loud because it happened to be the month of May. „Why are you singing?“ asked the stranger. „Because an acquaintance is following behind me. If you should meet him, tell him to walk faster, otherwise I won’t wait any longer.“ This was an excuse made up in distress so that the ruffian would not assume that she was travelling alone. After all, we are never alone; the Saints are always near us. My mum walked on, singing to herself again. When she happened to look back, she was horrified to see that the bloke was following at her heels. Then she shouted as loud as she could: „Joseph, run! Joseph! Joseph!“ The harasser was supposed to think that a certain Joseph was on his way. Only St Joseph