

## The Trusting Joseph

St Joseph's faith and trust were strong. His entire life is proof of this. With St Joseph, there were never any ifs and buts or whys, no doubts, even though much was incomprehensible to his human mind. Trust supported him. His whole being, his humility and poverty moved him to surrender unconditionally to GOD's Providence. Without questioning, he spontaneously carried out what was asked of him, although he knew the dangers and obstacles. Let us think here of the flight to Egypt.

Through his behaviour, he always embodied a sense of security that banished all fear and uncertainty from people's hearts. He always strove to carry out his tasks conscientiously and in accordance with GOD's will. He also always felt GOD's blessing on his efforts. Joseph was so inspired by this certainty that he never found himself doubting GOD.

The more miserable and weaker we see ourselves or feel, the more GOD will stand behind us like a protective wall. This is what St Joseph experienced - he had a wall that supported, protected and sustained him. The closer we are to GOD, the more we become aware of our weakness. GOD would like us to experience and know that He wants our heart. This is what St Joseph experienced throughout his life. GOD took his poor heart into His hands and left no fibre of it untouched. GOD lived in his heart with His whole being. Joseph was at the mercy of this divine will and was His instrument. Joseph could also say: "It is not I who live, but CHRIST who lives in

me." This is the strong trust of St Joseph: his devotion, a total surrender to GOD. Love is always the driving force behind such devotion – and GOD always responds with infinitely great love.

How must Joseph have constantly observed the divine Child in His nature, in prayer, and how intimately He honoured the FATHER. It was always deeply moving and instructive for him. He also always spoke to Mary about his joys, his feelings.

The pilgrimage of the divine Child to His FATHER's house in Jerusalem brought new revelations for St Joseph. It was indeed a blessed Easter for the Holy Family. Joseph bore this image in his heart for a long time. — How deeply did it touch Mary and Joseph in their hearts when they missed their JESUS. The fear and worry for their Child wore them down during those three days, for they had to witness Herod being after the Child's life from the very beginning.

St Joseph daily walked the Way of the Cross in his suffering. The thoughts that his JESUS will be crucified literally wore him down and deeply weakened him.

Joseph was in great agony even until the hour of his death. Then Joseph was so delighted by the presence of JESUS that he no longer realised his pain. JESUS made him focus entirely on Heaven and what awaits him there. JESUS even blessed him and closed his eyes. Mary's words: "He died angelically."

We should not forget that at every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, St Joseph and Mary are standing very close to the Altar. They



allow the stream of grace from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to flow towards the whole world. May St Joseph lead our hearts to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that is his

Those who have St Joseph as their friend should go to him with the following thoughts:

For large circles of our population, the 6th Commandment no longer exists. In reality, a moral flood of mud and filth is also sweeping across our Christian countries. Not only adults and young people, nay, even children are in danger of sinking into sex-

> the 6th Commandment are often met with sneering smirks and biting ridicule. And yet, GOD's demand is indelibly written, even for the people of our day:

> > shalt not "Thou commit unchastity."

"O Father Joseph, what great distress and what great misery there is in the world. You see it, and so many people are being swept along. - Let us learn from Your Life to overcome all difficulties in GOD. Teach us the way of letting ourselves fall in GOD so that He may take possession of our hearts and permeate our being with His SPIRIT."

## St Joseph Makes It Possible

It was raining into my room and no one cared. So I called out to St Joseph: "You are a carpenter, You can fix the roof. Please, be so kind as to do so." And the roof was fixed, although the rain still kept pouring outside.

Then it started raining again on another day, and it was raining in at the other end. So I asked St Joseph for his help again, promising to make his help known. And he helped wonderfully. Never has St Joseph let me down. Thanks be to him!

(R. M. K. in B.)

## **Our Month's Heartfelt Matters**

"Saint Joseph, You head of the Holy Family, ask GOD for good families who guide their children to goodness, lead them to GOD and teach them to respect and honour their fellow human beings. That the parents may pray with their children, and that the children may pray together with their father and mother. Where else should they learn this if not at home in the family. Holy Father Joseph, I know that Your help is so necessary in this respect. Will You obtain peace in the marriages, then also families will immediately become more peaceful."

With the blessing of Saint Joseph I say goodbye again, extending my most heartfelt regards to all of you,

Shother Paula