

## Grateful and Humble in Life and Death

## The Blessed Passing Away of St Joseph

During his many years of illness, Joseph's strength increasingly dwindled due to infirmity and suffering. When Mary recognised that St Joseph's passing away was imminent, she asked JESUS to stand by His Nursing and Foster Father in the hour of death. The SAVIOUR replied: "My Mother, your requests are pleasing to Me, and Joseph's merits are before My Spirit. I will now stand by him. But one day I will assign him such an exalted seat amongst the princes of My people that Angels and men will marvel at it and praise GOD. For no one I will do the same as for your Spouse."

On the day before his death, St Joseph was even allowed to see the essence of GOD and all the mysteries of faith and eternal life in a wonderful and unveiled manner. When he returned from his ecstasy, his face shone with beauty and wonderful radiance, and his soul was completely transformed in GOD. Joseph now asked his most holy Spouse for her blessing. But she asked JESUS to grant the desired blessing. Then Mary knelt down, asked in her turn St Joseph for his farewell blessing, and kissed his blessing hand with great gratitude.

St Joseph wanted to be grateful and humble even in his dying hour, as he had practised throughout his life. He thanked his most holy Spouse and asked her forgiveness for everything that he as a weak human being had failed to do in her service and as regards his respect towards her. He also thanked JESUS for all the graces he was allowed to receive throughout his life from His generous hand.

Speaking became increasingly difficult for him being mortally ill. Nevertheless, he praised Mary: "You are blessed amongst all women, chosen amongst all creatures! Angels and men shall praise you, and all generations shall know and glorify your dignity. May the Name of the Most High be recognised, exalted and worshipped through you for all times. Praised be GOD forever for creating you, so beautiful in His eyes and in the eyes of all blessed spirits. I hope to rejoice in your sight in the Heavenly homeland."

With his last ounce of strength, Joseph also turned to JESUS and rested his head on His arm. With faltering breath and breaking voice, he whispered: "My LORD, most high GOD, SON of the eternal FATHER, Creator and Redeemer of the world! Give Your servant, who is the work of Your hands, Your eternal blessing. Gentle King, forgive me the sins which I, unworthy one, have committed in Your service and in Your company. I confess You and praise You and thank You from the bottom of my heart that You, in Your infinite goodness, have chosen me from amongst all men to be the Bridegroom of Your most pure Mother."

JESUS blessed him and took leave of him with the words: "My Father, rest in peace, in My Heavenly FATHER's grace and in Mine! Bring My Prophets and Saints, who



are awaiting you in Limbo, the Glad Tidings of their coming Redemption." – At these words of JESUS, Joseph breathed out his soul in the arms of the SAVIOUR.

The SON of GOD closed his eyes. Immediately, the hosts of Angels surrounding their King and their Queen sang melodious songs of praise. Then they accompanied the holy soul of Joseph to the place where the Patriarchs and Prophets were waiting. They were indescribably joyful at the news of their coming Redemption.

Mary prepared her Bridegroom's body for burial according to the customs of that time. The holy

Angels helped her in visible form. Then the holy body was carried to the grave, accompanied by JESUS and Mary and a large host of Angels. Also

relatives and acquaintances and many others accompanied Joseph on his final journey, thus paying him the honour he deserved.

## An Envelope for the House of the "Joseph's Convent"

Every day, all worries and concerns are laid down and discussed in front of the statue of St Joseph. When the sisters started here and suffered great hardship, Joseph was always the great helper. When I came here 50 years ago, I was told:

"The sisters were in desperate need. Then it happened one day, while Mother Superior was working in the kitchen, that the door opened. A man handed Mother Superior an envelope. It was not sealed, so she could see inside. There was really money in it. She counted it and it was exactly the amount they urgently needed. She wanted to run after the man and thank him. But there was not a soul to be seen far and wide."

The sisters attributed this obvious help to St Joseph. Every day I ask St Joseph for his protection for all mankind.

(Sr. M. M. in M.)

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

"Hail Father Joseph, holy and powerful intercessor at the throne of GOD! I entrust to You our Lay Community, all our families. Never let our hope and trust in You fade.

There is so much need and misery in the world, and You will care for everyone. Please, come to the aid of the dying, that they may have their last thoughts of GOD before they have to depart.

Beloved Father Joseph, I ask You to stand by the Sword-Bishop in all his battles against hell."

Now I say goodbye again with kind regards and the blessing of Saint Joseph,

Shother Paula