



Devotional to St. Joseph

MARCH 2021

THE SPIRITUAL FATHERHOOD OF JOSEPH

Prayer to Saint Joseph:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

I. Chosen

 *Jesus... being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,... the son of David, the son of Jesse,... the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah,... the son of Shem, the son of Noah,... the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. (Luke 3)*

 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you... (John 15:16)

- Salvation History known for all time
- Christ's two-fold mission for us
- No fear; wills united
- Joseph's fiat

Saint Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life. That is why Scripture praises Joseph as "a just man." In Hebrew a just man means a good and faithful servant of God, someone who fulfils the divine will... (Saint Josemaria Escriva)

II. Magnitude of his fatherhood

 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made (John 1: 1-3)*

- God of creation... commanded
- Foreshadowing in the Old Testament
 - Then spoke Joshua...*
 - “Sun, stand thou still at Gibeon,
and thou Moon in the valley of Ai’jalon.”*
 - And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed...*
 - ... The sun stayed in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.
There has been no day like it before or since, **when the Lord hearkened to the voice of a man;**
for the Lord fought for Israel. (Joshua 10: 12-14)*
- Not for just a moment... but 30 years!

III. Need of a Father

 *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)*

- Hell and earthly powers will not prevail
- Fear? Loss of souls
- Supplement our earthly father
- Jesus THIRST’S FOR YOU
 - But I tell you again that I love you - not for what you have or haven’t done - I love you for you,
for the beauty and the dignity My Father gave you by creating you in His own image. It is a
dignity you have often forgotten, a beauty you have tarnished by sin. But I love you as you are,
and I have shed My Blood to win you back... I THIRST FOR YOU. Yes, that is the only way to even
begin to describe My love for you... For Me, there is no one any more important in the entire
world than you... (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)*

IV. Joseph is that Father

 *“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*
(Matthew 16: 24-25)

- Not home, but in an idolatrous world
- Charge of Adam
- Preparation for Calvary
- Blessed are the pure of heart...
- A Saint for all

V. Response

1. Get to know him!
2. Pray: Dialogue with him. Ask him for intercession. Litany of Saint Joseph, Memorare, etc.
3. Act of devotion/piety