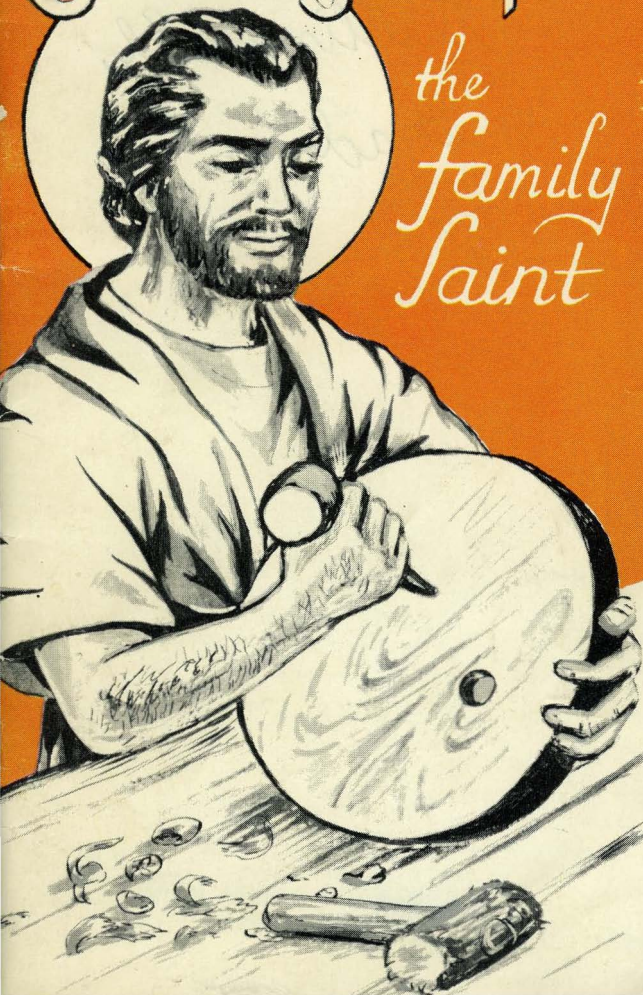


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Saint Joseph

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SAINT JOSEPH

The Family Saint

By

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FOREWORD

On May 1, 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the *Feast of St. Joseph the Workman*. In memory of this significant event, and to encourage devotion to St. Joseph in Catholic families, this booklet has been written.

The first society in order of eminence is the family. The successful existence and continuation of the family depends above all things on *authority*, which is the foundation of society and preserves it in order. Then comes *a devoted service of God*, which places the family in proper relationship with Him and assures it His blessing. Furthermore, *labor* is necessary for the natural stability and support of the family. Finally, there is *love*, which brings with it domestic peace and happiness.

St. Joseph had an intimate part in all these situations, because he was the guide, protector, counselor, and consolation of the Holy Family in all its joys and sorrows. Thus in his benign fatherliness he is a born patron and protector of families. His place is deservedly in every home. *He is the Family Saint*. And since there are workers in every family, it is fitting that we turn to St. Joseph and invoke him also as *the Patron of Workmen*.

In the ecclesiastical year there are two feasts of St. Joseph, which are celebrated throughout the whole Church, the Feast of St. Joseph, celebrated on March 19, which originated in the fifteenth century under Pope Sixtus IV, and the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman, which is celebrated on May 1, and which replaced the Feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph. An entire month, March, has been especially dedicated to the veneration of St. Joseph by Pope Pius IX and Leo XIII.

As an obedient child of the Church, follow her example and advice by venerating St. Joseph faithfully. "Go to Joseph" in your family needs and problems. You cannot do better than to entrust yourself and your family to the prayers and protection of him to whom God entrusted His own Son and His Blessed Mother. May he, The Family Saint, bless you and your family!

Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.

Feast of St. Joseph the Workman,

May 1, 1956

Divine Word Seminary,

Girard, Pennsylvania

Part I
NOVENA TO SAINT JOSEPH

FIRST DAY
FOSTER-FATHER OF JESUS

St. Joseph, *you were privileged to share in the mystery of the Incarnation as the foster-father of Jesus.* Mary alone was directly connected with the fulfillment of the mystery, in that she gave her consent to Christ's conception and allowed the Holy Spirit to form the sacred humanity of Jesus from her blood. You had a part in this mystery in an indirect manner, by fulfilling the condition necessary for the Incarnation — the protection of Mary's virginity before and during your married life with her. You made the virginal marriage possible, and this was a part of God's plan, foreseen, willed, and decreed from all eternity.

In a more direct manner *you shared in the support, upbringing, and protection of the Divine Child as His foster-father.* For this purpose the Heavenly Father gave you a genuine heart of a father — a heart full of love and self-sacrifice. With the toil of your hands you were obliged to offer protection to the Divine Child, to procure for Him food, clothing, and a home. You were truly the saint of the holy childhood of Jesus — the living created providence which watched over the Christ-Child.

When Herod sought the Child to put Him to death, the Heavenly Father sent an angel but only as a messenger, giving

orders for the flight; the rest He left entirely in your hands. Then it was that fatherly love was the only refuge which received and protected the Divine Child. Your fatherly love carried Him through the desert into Egypt till all enemies were removed. Then on your arms the Child returned to Nazareth to be nourished and provided for during many years by the labor of your hands. Whatever a human son owes to a human father for all the benefits of his up-bringing and support, Jesus owed to you, because you were to Him a foster-father, teacher, and protector.

You served the Divine Child *with a singular love*. God gave you a heart filled with heavenly, supernatural love — a love far deeper and more powerful than any natural father's love could be.

You served the Divine Child *with great unselfishness*, without any regard to self-interest, but not without sacrifices. You did not toil for yourself, but you seemed to be an instrument intended for the benefit of others, to be put aside as soon as it had done its work, for you disappeared from the scene once the childhood of Jesus had passed.

You were *the shadow of the Heavenly Father* not only as the earthly representative of the authority of the Father, but also by means of your fatherhood — which only appeared to be natural — you were to hide for a while the divinity of Jesus. What a wonderfully sublime and divine vocation was yours — the loving Child which you carried in your arms,

and loved and served so faithfully, had God in Heaven as Father and was Himself God!

Yours is a *very special rank among the saints* of the kingdom of God, because you were so much a part of the very life of the Word of God made Man. In your house at Nazareth and under your care the redemption of mankind was prepared. What you accomplished, you did for us. You are not only a powerful and great saint in the Kingdom of God, but a benefactor of the whole of Christendom and mankind. Your rank in the Kingdom of God, surpassing far in dignity and honor all the angels, deserves our very special veneration, love, and gratitude.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of having been chosen by God to be the foster-father of His Divine Son. As a token of your own gratitude to God for this your greatest privilege, obtain for me *the grace of a very devoted love for Jesus Christ*, my God and my Savior. Help me to serve Him with some of the self-sacrificing love and devotedness with which you have done so. Grant that through your intercession with Jesus, your foster-Son, I may reach the degree of holiness God has destined for me, and save my soul.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

SECOND DAY

VIRGINAL HUSBAND OF MARY

St. Joseph, *I honor you as the true husband of Mary*. Scripture says: "Jacob be-

got Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus who is called Christ" (Matt. 1, 16). Your marriage to Mary was a sacred contract by which you and Mary gave yourselves to each other. Mary really belonged to you with all she was and had. You had a right to her love and obedience; and no other person so won her esteem, obedience, and love.

You were also *the protector and witness of Mary's virginity*. By your marriage you gave to each other your virginity, and also the mutual right over it — a right to safeguard the other's virtue. This mutual virginity also belonged to the divine plan of the Incarnation, for God sent His angel to assure you that motherhood and virginity in Mary could be united.

This union of marriage not only brought you into daily familiar association with Mary, the loveliest of God's creatures, but also enabled you to behold continually all her virtues and to share with her *a mutual exchange of spiritual goods*. And Mary found her edification in your calm, humble, and deep virtue, purity, and sanctity. What a great honor comes to you from this close union with her whom the Son of God calls Mother and whom He declared the Queen of heaven and earth! Whatever Mary had belonged by right to you also, and this included her Son, even though He had been given to her by God in a wonderful way. Jesus belonged to you as His legal father. Your marriage was the way which God chose to have Jesus introduced into the world,

a great divine mystery from which all benefits have come to us.

God the Son confided the guardianship and the support of His immaculate Mother to your care. Mary's life was that of the Mother of the Savior, who did not come upon earth to enjoy honors and pleasures, but to redeem the world by hard work, suffering, and the cross. You were the faithful companion, support, and comforter of the Mother of Sorrows. How loyal you were to her in poverty, journeying, work, and pain. Your love for Mary was based upon your esteem for her as Mother of God. After God and the Divine Child, you loved no one as much as her. Mary responded to this love. She submitted to your guidance with naturalness and easy grace and childlike confidence. The Holy Spirit Himself was the bond of the great love which united your hearts.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being the virginal husband of Mary. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to love *Jesus with all my heart, as you did, and to love Mary with some of the tenderness and loyalty with which you loved her.*

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

THIRD DAY

MAN CHOSEN BY THE BLESSED TRINITY

St. Joseph, *you were the man chosen by God the Father.* He selected you to be His representative on earth, hence He

granted you all the graces and blessings you needed to be His worthy representative.

You were the man chosen by God the Son. Desirous of a worthy foster-father, He added His own riches and gifts, and above all, His love. The true measure of your sanctity is to be judged by your imitation of Jesus. You were entirely consecrated to Jesus, working always near Him, offering Him your virtues, your work, your sufferings, your very life. Jesus lived in you perfectly so that you were transformed into Him. In this lies your special glory, and the keynote of your sanctity. Hence, after Mary, you are the holiest of the saints.

You were the man chosen by the Holy Spirit. He is the mutual Love of the Father and the Son — the heart of the Holy Trinity. In His wisdom He drew forth all creatures from nothing, guides them to their end in showing them their destiny and giving them the means to reach it. Every vocation and every fulfillment of a vocation proceeds from the Holy Spirit. As foster-father of Jesus and head of the Holy Family, you had an exalted and most responsible vocation — to open the way for the redemption of the world and to prepare for it by the education and guidance of the youth of the God-Man. In this work you cooperated as the instrument of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the guide; you obeyed and carried out the works. How perfectly you obeyed the guidance of the God of Love!

The words of the Old Testament which Pharaoh spoke concerning Joseph of Egypt can well be applied to you: "Can we find such another man, that is full of the spirit of God, or a wise man like to him?" (Gen. 41, 38). No less is your share in the divine work of God than was that of the ancient savior of the people of Egypt. You now reign with your foster-Son and see reflected in the mirror of God's Wisdom the Divine Will and what is of benefit to our souls.

St. Joseph, I thank God for having made you the man specially chosen by Him. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace to imitate your virtues* so that I too may be pleasing to the Heart of God. Help me to give myself entirely to His service and to the accomplishment of His Holy Will, that one day I may reach heaven and be eternally united to God as you are.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

FOURTH DAY

FAITHFUL SERVANT

St. Joseph, *you lived for one purpose — to be the personal servant of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.* Your noble birth and ancestry, the graces and gifts, so generously poured out on you by God — all this was yours to serve our Lord better. Every thought, word, and action of yours was a homage to the love and glory of the Incarnate Word. You fulfilled most faithfully the role of a good

and faithful servant who cared for the House of God.

How perfect was your obedience! Your position in the Holy Family obliged you to command, but besides being the foster-father of Jesus, you were also His disciple. For almost thirty years you watched the God-Man display a simple and prompt obedience, and you grew to love and practice it very perfectly yourself. Without exception you submitted to God, to the civil rulers, and to the voice of your conscience.

When God sent an angel to tell you to care for Mary, you obeyed in spite of the mystery which surrounded her motherhood. When you were told to flee into Egypt under painful conditions, you obeyed without the slightest word of complaint. When God advised you in a dream to return to Nazareth, you obeyed. In every situation your obedience was as simple as your faith, as humble as your heart, as prompt as your love. It neglected nothing; it took in every command.

You had the virtue of perfect devotedness, which marks a good servant. Every moment of your life was consecrated to the service of our Lord: sleep, rest, work, pain. Faithful to your duties, you sacrificed everything unselfishly, even cheerfully. You would have sacrificed even the happiness of being with Mary. The rest and quiet of Nazareth was sacrificed at the call of duty. Your entire life was one generous giving, even to the point of being ready to die in proof of your love for Jesus and Mary. With true unselfish de-

votedness you worked without praise or reward.

But God wanted you to be in a certain sense *a cooperator in the Redemption of the world*. He confided to you the care of nourishing and defending the Divine Child. He wanted you to be poor and to suffer because He destined you to be the foster-father of His Son, who came into the world to save men by His sufferings and death, and you were to share in His suffering. In all of these important tasks, the Heavenly Father always found you a faithful servant!

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being God's faithful servant. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace to be a faithful servant of God* as you were. Help me to share, as you did, the perfect obedience of Jesus, who came not to do His Will, but the Will of His Father, to trust in the Providence of God, knowing that if I do His Will, He will provide for all my needs of soul and body; to be calm in my trials and to leave it to our Lord to free me from them when it pleases Him to do so. And help me to imitate your generosity, for there can be no greater reward here on earth than the joy and honor of being a faithful servant of God.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

FIFTH DAY

PATRON OF THE CHURCH

St. Joseph, God has appointed you patron of the Catholic Church, because *you were the head of the Holy Family*, the

type and starting-point of the Church. You were the father, protector, guide and support of the Holy Family. For that reason you belong in a particular way to the Church, which was the purpose of the Holy Family's existence.

I believe that *the Church is the family of God on earth*. Its government is represented in priestly authority which consists above all in its power over the true Body of Christ, really present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, thus continuing Christ's life in the Church. From this power, too, comes authority over the Mystical Body of Christ, the members of the Church — the power to teach and govern souls, to reconcile them with God, to bless them, and to pray for them.

You have a special relationship to the priesthood because you possessed a wonderful power over our Savior Himself. Your life and office were of a priestly nature, even as the priestly functions are especially connected with the Blessed Sacrament. To some extent you were the means of bringing the Redeemer to us — as it is the priest's function to bring Him to us in the Mass — for you reared Jesus, supported, nourished, protected and sheltered Him. You were prefigured by the patriarch Joseph, who kept supplies of wheat for his people. But how much greater than he were you! Joseph of old gave the Egyptians mere bread for their bodies. You nourished and with tenderest care preserved for the Church Him who is the Bread of Heaven and who gives eternal life in Holy Communion.

God has appointed you patron of the Church, because *the glorious title of patriarch also falls by special right to you*. The patriarchs were the heads of families of the Chosen People, and theirs was the honor to prepare for the Savior's incarnation. You belonged to this line of patriarchs, for you were one of the last descendants of the family of David and one of the nearest forebears of Christ according to the flesh. As husband of Mary, the Mother of God, and as the foster-father of the Savior, you were directly connected with Christ. Your vocation was especially concerned with the Person of Jesus; your entire activity centered about Him. You are, therefore, the closing of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New, which took its rise with the Holy Family of Nazareth. Because the New Testament surpasses the Old in every respect, you are the patriarch of patriarchs, the most venerable, exalted, and amiable of all the patriarchs.

Through Mary, the Church received Christ, and therefore the Church is indebted to her. But the Church owes her debt of gratitude and veneration to you also, for you were the chosen one who enabled Christ to enter into the world according to the laws of order and fitness. It was by you that the patriarchs and the prophets and the faithful reaped the fruit of God's promise. Alone among them all, you saw with your own eyes and possessed the Redeemer promised to the rest of men.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your priv-

ilege of being the Patron of the Church. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace to live always as a worthy member of this Church*, so that through it I may save my soul. Bless the priests, the religious, and the laity of the Catholic Church that they may ever grow in God's love and faithfulness in His service. Protect the Church from the evils of our day and from the persecution of her enemies. Through your powerful intercession may the Church successfully accomplish its mission in this world — the glory of God and the salvation of souls!

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

SIXTH DAY

PATRON OF FAMILIES

St. Joseph, *I venerate you as the gentle head of the Holy Family*. The Holy Family was the scene of your life's work in its origin, in its guidance, in its protection, in your labor for Jesus and Mary, and even in your death in their arms. You lived, moved, and acted in the loving company of Jesus and Mary. The inspired writer describes your life at Nazareth in only a few words: "And (Jesus) went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them" (Luke 2, 51). Yet these words tell of your high vocation here on earth, and the abundance of graces which filled your soul during those years spent in Nazareth.

Your family life at Nazareth was all radiant with the light of divine charity. There was an intimate union of heart and

mind among the members of your Holy Family. There could not have been a closer bond than that uniting you to Jesus, your foster-Son, and to Mary, your most loving wife. Jesus chose to fulfill toward you, His foster-father, all the duties of a faithful son, showing you every mark of honor and affection due to a parent. And Mary showed you all the signs of respect and love of a devoted wife. You responded to this love and veneration of both Jesus and Mary for you with feelings of deepest love and respect. You had for Jesus a true fatherly love, enkindled and kept aglow in your heart by the Holy Spirit. And you could not cease to admire the workings of grace in Mary's soul, and this admiration caused the holy love which you had consecrated to her on the day of your wedding to grow stronger every day.

God has made you a heavenly patron of family life because you sanctified yourself as head of the Holy Family and thus by your beautiful example sanctified family life. How peacefully and happily the Holy Family rested under the care of your fatherly rule, even in the midst of trials. You were the protector, counselor, and consolation of the Holy Family in every need. And just as you were the model of piety, so you gave us by your zeal, your earnestness and devout trust in God's providence, and especially by your love, the example of labor according to the Will of God. You cherished all the experiences common to family life and the sacred memories of the life, sufferings, and joys

in the company of Jesus and Mary. Therefore the family is dear to you as the work of God, and it is of the highest importance in your eyes to promote the honor of God and the well-being of man. In your loving fatherliness and unfailing intercession you are the patron and protector of families, and you deserve a place in every home.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of living in the Holy Family and being its head. As a token of your own gratitude to God, *obtain God's blessing upon my own family*. Make our home the kingdom of Jesus and Mary — a kingdom of peace, of joy, and love.

I also pray for all Christian families. Your help is needed in our day when God's enemy has directed his attack against the family in order to desecrate and destroy it. In the face of these evils, as patron of families, be pleased to help; and as of old you arose to save the child and His Mother, so today arise to protect the sanctity of the home. Make our homes sanctuaries of prayer, of love, of patient sacrifice, and of work. May they be modeled after your own at Nazareth. Remain with us with Jesus and Mary, so that by your help we may obey the commandments of God and of the Church, receive the holy sacraments frequently, live a life of prayer, foster religious instruction in our homes. Grant that we may be reunited in God's kingdom and eternally live in the company of the Holy Family in heaven.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

SEVENTH DAY
PATRON OF WORKERS

St. Joseph, *you devoted your time at Nazareth to the work of a carpenter.* It was the Will of God that you and your foster-Son should spend your days together in manual labor. What a beautiful example you set for the working classes!

It was especially for the poor, who compose the greater part of mankind, that Jesus came upon earth, for in the synagogue of Nazareth He read the words of Isaias and referred them to Himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because he has anointed me; to bring good news to the poor he has sent me" (Luke 4. 18). It was God's Will that you should be occupied with work common to poor people, that in this way Jesus Himself might ennoble it by inheriting it from you, His foster-father, and by freely embracing it. Thus our Lord teaches us that for the humbler class of workmen He has in store His richest graces, provided they live content in the place God's Providence has assigned them, and remain poor in spirit, for He said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5, 3).

The kind of work to which you devoted your time in the workshop of Nazareth offered you many occasions of practicing *humility*. You were privileged to see each day the example of humility which Jesus practiced — a virtue most pleasing to Him. He chose for His earthly surrounding not the courts of princes nor

the halls of the learned, but a little workshop of Nazareth. Here you shared for many years the humble and hidden toiling of the God-Man. What a touching example for the worker of today!

While your hands were occupied with manual work, your mind was turned to God in *prayer*. From the Divine Master, who worked along with you, you learned to work in the presence of God in the spirit of prayer, for as He worked he adored His Father and recommended the welfare of the world to Him. Jesus also instructed you in the wonderful truths of grace and virtue, for you were in close contact with Him who said of Himself, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

As you were working at your trade, you were reminded of the greatness and majesty of God, who, as a most wise Architect, formed this vast universe with wonderful skill and limitless power.

The light of divine *faith* that filled your mind, did not grow dim when you saw Jesus working as a carpenter. You firmly believed that the saintly Youth working beside you was truly God's own Son.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being able to work side by side with Jesus in the carpenter shop of Nazareth. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace to respect the dignity of labor* and ever to be content with the position in life, however lowly, in which it may please Divine Providence to place me. Teach me to work for God and

with God in the spirit of humility and prayer, as you did, so that I may offer my toil in union with the sacrifice of Jesus in the Mass as a reparation for my sins, and gain rich merit for heaven.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

EIGHTH DAY

FRIEND IN SUFFERING

St. Joseph, *your share of suffering was very great because of your close union with the Divine Savior.* All the mysteries of His life were more or less mysteries of suffering. Poverty pressed upon you, and the cross of labor followed you everywhere. Nor were you spared domestic crosses, owing to misunderstandings in regard to the holiest and most cherished of beings, Jesus and Mary, who were all to you. Keen must have been the suffering caused by the uncertainty regarding Mary's virginity; by the bestowal of the name of Jesus, which pointed to future misfortune. Deeply painful must have been the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the disappearance of Jesus at the Paschal feast. To these sufferings were surely added interior sorrow at the sight of the sins of your own people.

You bore all this suffering in a truly Christ-like manner, and in this you are our example. No sound of complaint or impatience escaped you — you were, indeed, the silent saint! You submitted to all in the spirit of faith, humility, confidence, and love; and cheerfully bore all in union with and for the Savior and His

Mother, knowing well that true love is a crucified love. But God never forsook you in your trials. The trials, too, disappeared and were changed at last into consolation and joy.

It seems that God had purposely intended your life to be filled with suffering as well as consolation to keep before my eyes the truth that my life on earth is but a succession of joys and sorrows, and that *I must gratefully accept whatever God sends me*, and during the time of consolation prepare for suffering. Teach me to bear my cross in the spirit of faith, of confidence, and of gratitude toward God. In a happy eternity I shall thank God fervently for the sufferings which He deigned to send me during my pilgrimage on earth, and which after your example I endured with patience and heartfelt love for Jesus and Mary.

You were truly *the martyr of the hidden life*. This was God's Will, for the holier a person is, the more he is tried for the love and glory of God. If suffering is the flowering of God's grace in a soul and the triumph of the soul's love for God, being the greatest of saints after Mary, you suffered more than any of the martyrs.

Because you have experienced the sufferings of this valley of tears, *you are most kind and sympathetic toward those in need*. Down through the ages souls have turned to you in distress and have always found you a faithful friend in suffering. You have graciously heard their prayers in their needs even though it de-

manded a miracle. Having been so intimately united with Jesus and Mary in life, your intercession with Them is most powerful.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being able to suffer for Jesus and Mary. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace to bear my suffering patiently for love of Jesus and Mary*. Grant that I may unite the sufferings, works, and disappointments of life with the sacrifice of Jesus in the Mass, and share like you in Mary's spirit of sacrifice.

(Novena Prayer, p. 24)

NINTH DAY

PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

St. Joseph, how fitting it was that at the hour of your death Jesus should stand at your bedside with Mary, the sweetness and hope of all mankind. You gave your entire life to the service of Jesus and Mary; at death you enjoyed the consolation of dying in Their loving arms. You accepted death in the spirit of loving submission to the Will of God, and this acceptance crowned your hidden life of virtue. Yours was a merciful judgment, for your foster-Son, for whom you had cared so lovingly, was your Judge, and Mary was your advocate. The verdict of the Judge was a word of encouragement to wait for His coming to Limbo, where He would shower you with the choicest fruits of the Redemption, and an embrace of

grateful affection before you breathed forth your soul into eternity.

You looked into eternity and to your everlasting reward with confidence. God is grateful. If our Savior blessed the shepherds, the Magi, Simeon, John the Baptist, and others, because they greeted His presence with devoted hearts for a brief passing hour, how much more did He bless you who have sanctified yourself for so many years in His company and that of His Mother? If Jesus regards every corporal and spiritual work of mercy, performed in behalf of our fellow men out of love for Him, as done to Himself, and promises heaven as a reward, what must have been the extent of His gratitude to you who in the truest sense of the word have received Him, given Him shelter, clothed, nourished, and consoled Him at the sacrifice of your strength and rest, and even your life, with a love which surpassed the love of all fathers.

God really and personally made Himself your debtor. Our Divine Savior paid that debt of gratitude by granting you many graces in your lifetime, especially the grace of growing in love, which is the best and most perfect of all gifts. Thus at the end of your life your heart became filled with love, the fervor and longing of which your frail body could not resist. Your soul followed the triumphant impulse of your love and winged its flight from earth to bear to the prophets and patriarchs in Limbo the glad tidings of the advent of the Redeemer.

St. Joseph, I thank God for your priv-

ilege of being able to die in the arms of Jesus and Mary. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me *the grace of a happy death*. Help me spend each day in preparation for death. May I, too, accept death in the spirit of resignation to God's Holy Will, and die, as you did, in the arms of Jesus, strengthened by Holy Viaticum, and in the arms of Mary, with her rosary in my hand and her name on my lips!

Novena Prayer

Saint Joseph, I, your unworthy child, greet you. You are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have special confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I place all my hope of salvation in you, for you are specially powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants. Therefore I humbly invoke you and commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you

to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: (*Mention your request*).

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

500 days. (472)

Part II

VARIOUS PRAYERS

Consecration

Glorious Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the foster-father of Jesus, the chaste spouse of Mary ever Virgin and the head of the Holy Family, and appointed by the Vicar of Christ to be the heavenly patron and defender of the Church founded by Jesus, most confidently I now implore your aid for the whole Church militant on earth. Shield with your fatherly love especially the Supreme Pontiff and all the bishops and priests who are united with the Holy See of Peter. Be the defender of all who labor for souls amid the trials and hardships of this life, and cause all the peoples of the earth to submit themselves in a docile spirit to that Church which is the ark of salvation for all men.

Be pleased also, dear Saint Joseph, to accept this dedication of myself which I now make to you. I consecrate myself entirely to you, in order that you may ever be my father, my patron, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent devotion to the interior life. Grant that, following your example, I may direct all my actions to the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the immaculate Heart of Mary and you. Finally, pray for me that I may be a partaker in the peace and joy which were yours at the hour of your holy death. Amen.

500 days. (474)

Family Consecration

Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way You sanctified that Family which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the divine model of Your Family, may we all attain to eternal happiness.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your merciful intercession make this our humble offering acceptable to Jesus, and obtain for us graces and blessings.

Saint Joseph, most holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, help us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal needs so that we may praise Jesus, our divine Savior, together with Mary and you for all eternity.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.
(*three times*)

500 days. (706)*

Model of Workers

Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance for the expiation of my many sins and to work faithfully by placing the love of

duty above my own desires.

Help me to work with gratitude and joy. Let me consider it an honor to use and develop by labor the gifts received from God. Aid me to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, without ever avoiding weariness and trials.

Help me to work, above all, for the glory of God and not for any selfish reason; and always to keep before my eyes not only death but also the account I must give of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, and of pride in success, so harmful to the work of God. All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after your example, holy patriarch, Saint Joseph! This will be my motto in life and in death. Amen.

(St. Pius X) 500 days (478)

Hymn

Joseph, to thee by hosts on high
And choirs of Christians, laud be paid!
Saintly of life, by purest tie
Joined unto her, the glorious Maid.

When thou didst doubt thy wife's repute,
And mark her great with motherhood,
The angel taught thee that her fruit
Came from the Holy Ghost of God.

To clasp the Son, thy Lord, was thine,
To share His flight to Egypt's shore,
With tears, to seek in Salem's shrine
Him lost, with joy, to find once more.

Death brings to other saints their rest;
Through toil they win the victor's
place;

Thou happier, like the angels blest,
Alive, hast seen God face to face.

Spare us, O Trinity most High!

Grant that, with Joseph, we may gain
Thy starry realm, and ceaselessly

There raise to Thee our thankful
strain. Amen. 3 years. (463)*

Dear Joseph, grant us to run life's
pathway in innocence. May we be forever
safe under your protection. 300 days. (458)*

Saint Joseph, foster-father of our Lord
Jesus Christ and true spouse of the Virgin
Mary, pray for us. 300 days. (459)

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, *have mercy on
us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Ghost,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, *pray for us.*

Illustrious Son of David,

Light of patriarchs,

Spouse of the Mother of God,

Chaste protector of the Virgin,

Foster father of the Son of God,

Zealous defender of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,

Joseph most chaste,

Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most valiant,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of workmen,
Glory of domestic life,
Guardian of virgins,
Mainstay of families,
Comfort of the afflicted,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins
of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins
of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins
of the world, *have mercy on us.*

V. He has made him the lord of His
house,

R. And the ruler of all His possessions.

Let us pray

O God, who in Thy providence hast
been pleased to choose Blessed Joseph as
the spouse of Thy most holy Mother,
grant, we beseech Thee, that we who ven-
erate him as our protector on earth, may
merit to have him as our intercessor in
heaven. Who livest and reignest world
without end. Amen.

5 years. (462)*

APPENDIX

POPE PIUS XII

Feast of St. Joseph the Workman

. . . From the beginning We put your organization under the powerful patronage of St. Joseph. Indeed there could be no better protector to help you deepen in your lives *the spirit of the Gospel*. As We said then, that spirit flows to you and all men from the Heart of the God-man, Savior of the world: but certainly *no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus*, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work. Thus, if you wish to be close to Christ, We again today repeat: "Ite ad Joseph" — Go to Joseph (Gen. 41, 55).

. . . Yes, beloved workers, the Pope and the Church cannot withdraw from the divine mission of guiding, protecting, and loving especially the suffering, who are all the more dear the more they are in need of defense and help, whether they be workers or other children of the people.

This duty and obligation We, the Vicar of Christ, desire to reaffirm clearly, here, on the first day of May — which the world of labor has claimed for itself as its own proper feastday — *that all may recognize the dignity of labor and that this dignity may be a motivation in forming the social order and laws founded on the equitable distribution of rights and duties*.

Acclaimed in this way by Christian

workers and having received, as it were, Christian baptism, the first of May, far from being a stimulus for discord, hate and violence, is and will be a recurring invitation to modern society to accomplish that which it still lacking for social peace. *A Christian feast, therefore; that is, a day of rejoicing for the concrete and progressive triumph of the Christian ideals of the great family of labor.*

In order that this meaning may remain in your minds and that, in a certain manner, We may make an immediate return for the numerous and precious gifts brought to Us from all parts of Italy, We are happy to announce to you Our determination to institute — *as We in fact do now institute — the liturgical feast of St. Joseph the Workman, assigning to it precisely the first day of May.* Are you pleased with this Our gift, beloved workers? We are certain that you are, because *the humble workman of Nazareth not only personifies before God and the Church the dignity of the manual laborer, but also he is always the provident guardian of you and your families.*

Address to Catholic Association of Italian Workers, May 1, 1955.

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