

LIVING THE BEATITUDES WITH SAINT JOSEPH



A Nine Day Novena for
Consecration to Saint Joseph

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STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

These meditations invite the reader to a spiritual journey with St. Joseph, reliving nine joyous, sorrowful and glorious events in his life with his most beloved Jesus and Mary, to bring you closer to this greatest of saints. This journey is by way of a Novena Rosary to honor this noblest exemplar of living in the Spirit of Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes form the soul of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, universally acclaimed as the greatest sermon ever preached. The Beatitudes is Jesus' roadmap to heaven, the perfect joy for His disciples. The Beatitudes are the steps of the stairway to heaven designed and built by Jesus to lead his followers to the house of His Father where "there are many rooms" reserved for His disciples, who long for their eternal home. There they, the pure of heart, shall see God in heaven.

St. Joseph lived in this Spirit of the Beatitudes in the splendor of his many roles: as a humble carpenter, chaste spouse of Mary the Mother of God, Foster Father and guardian of the Son of God, faithful cooperater of the Holy Spirit, and obedient surrogate on earth of the Father in heaven.

The Beatitudes define St. Joseph's own life as that of his Son's, a sign of contradiction who confounds the wise of this world even as he opens the hearts of the humble to the mysteries of God: the meek shall inherit the earth while the poor lead the way to heaven; the sorrowing shall be joyous, the persecuted victorious and the hungry shall have their fill while the rich turned empty away. The losers and sufferers of this world shall be given places of honor in the next. This way of life is made possible by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As we follow in this way of the Spirit, there is no better guide than St. Joseph.

Howard Joseph Q. Dee

LIVING THE BEATITUDES WITH SAINT JOSEPH

A NINE DAY NOVENA FOR
CONSECRATION TO SAINT JOSEPH

*For
Three Living Apostles
of the Beatitudes:*

*His Holiness
Pope John Paul II
On the 25th Anniversary
Of His Pontificate*

*His Eminence
Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
On the 50th Anniversary
Of His Ordination*

*The Reverend
Fr. Catalino G. Arevalo, S.J.
On the 50th Anniversary
Of His Ordination*

INTRODUCTION

This book, a revised special edition of the one I wrote 17 years ago, invites the reader on a spiritual journey with St. Joseph to relive the most important events in his life as the Protector of the Holy Family, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Foster Father of Jesus our Lord. It is a nine-day preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph in the Year 2021, declared by Pope Francis as the Year of St. Joseph.

2021 also marks the 500th anniversary of the Year 1521, when Magellan brought the Catholic Faith to our land. In addition, Pope Francis has also declared this year the Year of the Family, commencing on March 19, 2021 – the Feast of St Joseph. There is no better year to entrust ourselves, our families and our nation to the protection and guidance of St Joseph!

The meditations in each chapter depict nine events in the blessed life of St. Joseph that manifest the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon him. The recounting of these events in the life of the Holy Family remind us of our own constant need of God's gifts and graces as we live the joys and sorrows of our lives as St. Joseph lived his, perhaps more intensely than any other man as the guardian-protector of a family of sorrows.

The Beatitudes found in each chapter constitute a way of life that Jesus establishes as the new law for the new Kingdom, not to replace but to perfect the old law of Moses. It is a law of seeming contradictions – the meek inheriting the earth, the poor leading the way to heaven, the sorrowful rejoicing, the persecuted victorious, the losers of the world given places of honor – but it is Jesus' road map to heaven for anyone who desires to follow Him, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

St. Joseph lived in this Spirit of the Beatitudes, in the splendor of his many roles – as a humble carpenter provider, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, custodian of the Son of God, servant of the Holy Spirit, and obedient surrogate on earth of the Father in Heaven. He is also the Patriarch who links the Old and New Testaments and the House of King David to Jesus Christ the King. He lived the Ten Commandments of Moses perfectly in the Spirit of the Beatitudes of his Son, and though he did not live to hear his Son give the new law, it is always, in every age, Jesus who lavishes His grace, and the Holy Spirit who bestows His gifts, on those who live the Blessedness of God.

This Way of the Beatitudes is meant for all pilgrims who prefer the Ways of God to the ways of men, who trust in the foolishness of God more than the wisdom of this world, who live in the midst of the world as signs of contradiction, in imitation of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Men, women and even children long for authentic happiness and the joy and peace that only God can give. The Holy Family points the way for us, and as we follow them in the Way of the Spirit, there is no better guide than St. Joseph, who faithfully guided his family, and no surer way than to entrust ourselves to him, as Jesus and Mary did.

Special thanks to my daughter, Angelyn Dee, who holds a Masters degree in Theology and is my co-author of this special edition, to Ma. Victoria Borres of the Marian Solidarity Secretariat - Assisi Development Foundation for doing all the legwork for its publication and distribution, to Jan Camina and Marlon Reyes for the artwork and layout, and to all the Parish Lay Councils with the help of the Diocesan Bishops of the Philippines.

For this Year of St. Joseph (Dec. 8, 2020 to Dec. 8, 2021), the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary has issued a decree defining

15 ways for the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence, subject to the usual requirements of Confession, Holy Communion, prayers for the Holy Father's intentions and being detached from sin. This book provides a personal retreat comprised of nine meditations on the life of St. Joseph, with which the reader can gain a plenary indulgence for himself or for the soul of a loved one. With this special gift from St. Joseph, have a happy retreat and please remember me and my family in your prayers.

Howard Joseph Q. Dee
Manila, Philippines
February 2021

My Much Beloved Wife
Betty Marie Chu Dee

And Our Children
And Grandchildren

Angelyn Christina Dee

Christian James
Sean Michael
Michelle Marie
John Paul
Joseph Francis

**Richard Joseph and
Victoria Elisa Aquino Dee**

Francis Joseph
Jacinta Patricia

**Michelle Marie Dee and
Claude Comair**

Christopher Pierre
Alexander Michael

+Marybeth C. Dee

June 1, 1965-June 4, 2020

*A Rosary Novena
of the
Holy Family*

*In preparation for
Our National Consecration
to
St. Joseph
in the Year 2021, dedicated to him*

*Head of the Holy Family
Chaste Spouse of Mary
Guardian Father of Jesus
Surrogate of God the Father
Servant of the Holy Spirit
Protector of Holy Mother Church
Intercessor of Families
Terror of Demons*



First Mystery
THE BETROTHAL OF THE
VIRGIN MARY TO JOSEPH



Second Mystery
THE ANUNCIATION OF THE
BIRTH OF JESUS TO MARY AND
JOSEPH



Third Mystery
THE BIRTH OF JESUS



Fourth Mystery
THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS



Fifth Mystery
THE EXILE OF THE HOLY
FAMILY TO EGYPT



Sixth Mystery
FINDING OF JESUS IN THE
TEMPLE



Seventh Mystery
DEATH OF ST. JOSEPH



Eighth Mystery
THE RAISING OF JOSEPH TO
LIFE AND HIS ASCENSION TO
HEAVEN



Ninth Mystery
THE EXALTATION OF MARY
AND JOSEPH IN HEAVEN



THE BETROTHAL OF THE VIRGIN MARY
TO JOSEPH

I

FIRST MYSTERY

**The Betrothal of the Virgin Mary
to Joseph**

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fear of the Lord

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 1:27

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Sirach 2: 8-9, 15-17

You who fear the Lord, trust in Him, and your reward will not fail; you who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for everlasting joy and mercy.

Those who fear the Lord will not disobey his words, and those who love Him will keep his ways.

Those who fear the Lord will seek his approval, and those who love him will keep the law.

Those who fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, will humble themselves before Him.



MEDITATION

As was the custom in Israel, young maidens of pious families were raised in the temple where they served until the age of marriage.

*“Their parents in dedicating them to the temple had offered them entirely to God, and the devout Israelites had for a long time a secret presentiment that the marriage of one of these virgins would one day contribute to the coming of the promised Messiah.”**

As Mary is dismissed from the temple at age fourteen to be married, great is her distress of heart as her only desire is to remain a virgin betrothed to God in His service. In prayer, she makes known to God her wish but surrenders herself to His will for her. Should it be God’s will that she marry, she asks only that her husband be holy and respectful of her vow of chastity. Granting her wish, the Father in heaven chooses Joseph, a just man and humble carpenter, from the house of David, to be Mary’s holy spouse.

“On the command of the high priest, Joseph now came, dressed in his best, to the Temple at Jerusalem. He, too, had to hold a branch in his hand during the prayer and sacrifice,

and as he was about to lay this on the altar before the Holy of Holies, a white flower like a lily blossomed out of the top of it, and I saw over him an appearance of light like the Holy Ghost. Joseph was now recognized as appointed by God to be the bridegroom of the Blessed Virgin, and was presented to her by the priests in the presence of her mother. Mary, submissive to the Will of God, accepted him meekly as her bridegroom, for



*she knew that all things were possible with God, who had accepted her vow to belong to Him alone, body and soul.”**

The Betrothal of Mary to Joseph was promulgated in heaven, its deepest wellspring not merely human love, but the very love of God. They vow to live together in chastity for their love of God, having already



vowed themselves to God before knowing each other. In the words of an unknown author, *“Mary and Joseph are like two lilies blooming in the same garden, perfuming one another and flowering for the Lord.”* It is through this purest of loves that God gives flesh to His own Love for humanity.

The Fear of the Lord, a Gift of the Holy Spirit, is born of perfect love of the Lord. It is not a servile fear of punishment, but a filial and holy fear of offending Him who loves us, and of being separated from His love. Mary and Joseph, in their great love of the Lord, are richly endowed with this gift, which enable them to meekly submit to the will of the Father in order for His plan to be realized. Meekness is not weakness; it is the trustful submission of humble hearts who choose God’s plan over their own. Thus, the meek inherit the earth by building the kingdom of God upon it – a kingdom of the holy fear and love of God.

Jesus encourages us to *“learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart...”* Mt. 11:29, and He, in turn, learned to be meek and humble from his earthly father, Joseph. *“Like father, like son”*, as the saying goes, and we would do well to imitate them both.

PRAYER

Blessed Joseph, greatest of all saints, second only to Mary, Jesus chose you to be His Father. Be also a Father to me;

Gentle Father Joseph, teach me to be meek and humble of heart as you taught Jesus, who was known as the son of Joseph the carpenter;

Holy Father Joseph, teach me true devotion to Mary, in the way you were devoted to her;

Loving Father Joseph, teach me Fear of the Lord – fear of losing Him, that I may keep His laws, follow His commands and love Him with all my heart, all my soul and all my strength.

Dearest Father Joseph, I consecrate myself and entrust my soul to you.
AMEN.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**

* Quotations in italics are taken from the writings of Blessed Anne Emmerich.





THE ANUNCIATION OF THE BIRTH
OF JESUS TO MARY AND JOSEPH

II

SECOND MYSTERY

**The Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus
to Mary and Joseph**

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fear of the Lord

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are the Merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 1: 26-35

In the sixth month the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said: "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the Angel said to her: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end and his reign will be without end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be as I do not know man?" And the angel answered her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Matthew 1: 20-22

... behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



MEDITATION

Soon after the betrothal of Mary to Joseph, at the time designated by the Father since the fall of our first parents, God sends His Archangel Gabriel to Mary to announce that she is to become the Mother of the Messiah who is to be the Son of God Himself.

The Virgin Mary is in absorbed in prayer when the Archangel Gabriel comes to her room,



refulgent in light and glory, to announce to her the astounding news that she is to conceive the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. With her Fiat – “Let it be done” – the Blessed Virgin is rapt in ecstasy, and the Holy Spirit overshadows her. She becomes translucent with luminosity as the Son of God is conceived in her Immaculate Womb.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” Jn. 1:14a

Mary, in her modesty and humility, does not say a word to Joseph about the extraordinary visit and announcement of the Archangel Gabriel, nor the Yes she has given freely for the long awaited Messiah to be miraculously conceived in her womb. She ponders these things in her heart which now beats in unison with the heart of her Savior Son.

As Mary conceives Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, she is not only the Daughter of

the Father, she is now the Spouse of the Holy Spirit and the Mother of God the Son. From the beginning of the world until its ending, no creature will ever be given such high stature and honors in both the natural and supernatural realms. No being, human or angelic, will ever be more intimately united to or loved by the Trinity itself, Father, Son and Spirit. She is the Masterpiece of all of God's creation, the Queen of the Cosmos and of all the angels and saints. She is clothed with the sun, a crown of stars on her head, and the moon under her feet, destined to crush Satan and end our legacy of sin as the Mother of a new lineage of the faithful and true.

After the fall of Adam and Eve, when God announced to Lucifer in the Garden of Eden that He would send a Redeemer to crush his head, He did not reveal that the Messiah would be His only begotten Son. He introduced Him merely as the offspring



of a woman. This woman, however, will be powerful by humility and mighty by meekness; she will undo the effects of the fall by her unwavering Yes to God. She and her Savior Son become the New Adam and New Eve, restoring the world to holiness in a new creation, made possible by the power of grace.

Joseph, not knowing the stupendous events that have taken place, truly personifies the beatitude of mercy. In his fear of offending

the Lord and his spouse, he decides to leave Mary quietly, not wanting to expose her to shame. How much he is filled with the gift of the Loving Fear of God, and how merciful he is toward Mary. Though he is obliged by law to bring her to the authorities, in his grievous affliction he chooses mercy.

Ven. Maria of Agreda wrote of St. Joseph: *“The man of God was wounded in his inmost heart by an arrow of grief... The principal cause of his grief was the... most intense love with which he cherished his most faithful spouse. Besides this, was the certainly of his not having any part in this pregnancy... “I confess my spouse is most perfect and exhibits nothing but what shows her a saint; but she is pregnant and I cannot fathom the mystery. I do not wish to injure her reputation of holiness by involving her in the punishment of the law; yet at the same time I cannot stand by and witness the consequences of her pregnancy. I will*

leave her now and commit myself to the providence of the Lord, who governs me.”
(The Mystical City of God, Book 2, p. 316)

Mary prays to God to take pity on Joseph in his obvious suffering, and Joseph, the merciful one, obtains mercy from God through the message of the Angel Gabriel in his own annunciation. He takes Mary to be his wife and her Son to be his own, and he names him Jesus.



PRAYER

Merciful Father Joseph, just and upright, imbue in me a sense of justice and righteousness in all that I do, with all whom I relate to in life – my family, my friends, my colleagues and co-workers – those whom I love and those who love me, and those who do not love me and those whom I have failed to love.

Gentle Father Joseph, teach me merciful love, that I may await God's loving mercy, now and at the end of my days. Amen

Father Joseph, I entrust my soul to you.
Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**





THE BIRTH OF JESUS

III

THIRD MYSTERY

The Birth of Jesus

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Piety

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Galatians 4: 4

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the City of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her



firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 13-16

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels went away

from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in the manger.

MEDITATION

After a long and arduous journey from Nazareth – Mary astride a donkey and heavy with child, with Joseph weary from days of walking – they arrive in his hometown of Bethlehem to find there is no room for them



in any inn. Joseph's heart is broken with sorrow, but they are content to welcome their holy infant in a cave used as an animal stable, with a lowly feeding trough for His crib. What they lack in comfort and dignity, they fill with deep love and piety, accepting all as God's holy will.

Joseph kneels adoringly before the Madonna and Child, who are now his sacred family – the Son of the Most High God, and the Virgin Mother full of grace. He is awed by the wonder of it all, that God would choose him, a humble carpenter, to be the earthly father of His Divine Son. Mary and Joseph are in a state of sweet ecstasy as they adore the Infant Jesus, his infinite glory hidden secretly in their hearts.

The fullness of time has at last arrived for the fulfillment of the prophecy foretold in every generation: the coming of the Messiah, born of a virgin betrothed to a descendant

of King David. God keeps His promise of a Savior – the promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to Abraham at Mount Moriah, to Moses in his last days, and to many prophets of Israel. Yet this King of kings arrives without the pomp and pageantry befitting royalty; his sovereignty is cloaked with humility, his power with loving piety, he reigns with the spirit of poverty, and his might is love and peace.

The birth of this King, long foretold, was awaited with great anticipation, yet His angelic heralds bypass the castles and palaces of emperors and kings, hastening instead to lowly shepherds who keep watch in their fields. Under a sky lit by a magnificent star, they announce the Savior's birth in a stable, while choirs of heaven descend to earth to adore their God.

The shepherds come in procession into the lowly cave, to pray and adore their Savior,

angelic hosts surrounding them, singing sweet anthems in the silent night. Then *“the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.”* (Lk. 2:20)

After the shepherds arrive the Magi who, guided by the Christmas star, come to adore and pay homage to their King on His throne of straw. They present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah:



*...the wealth of the nations
shall come to you.*

*A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.*

So overwhelmed is Joseph that with Mary, they keep all these things in their hearts. Truly they are poor in spirit; yet possessing nothing, they possess everything: they possess the Son of God.

Blessed indeed are all who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the glory of heaven. They put all their trust in God, depending on Him completely. The Holy Spirit fills them with piety – a generous childlike love – enabling them to love God like little children who treasure their earthly fathers.

How truly blessed are the poor in spirit, who receive the Good News with rejoicing – the

poor and the lowly of heart, the shepherds of every generation. They are first in God's new kingdom, founded not on wealth and power, but instead on mercy and justice, giving hope to all mankind. For the spirit of piety and poverty bring forth a new human order, born not of strife and conquest, but of very love of God. Now the leper, the destitute, the forsaken, and all who know they are nothing, become everything with the riches bestowed on them by the lowly Messiah King.

To Joseph, the humble carpenter, God gives unprecedented authority to raise His only begotten Son – to teach, guide, protect and provide for Him as his earthly father. Joseph's poverty of spirit, the fruit of his humility and piety, is marked by his total abandonment to the Divine Will of his Master. He completely relies on God's providence to fulfill the mission entrusted to him, and God floods

his good servant's nothingness with all the spiritual riches he needs.

The Trinity in heaven is a family: three persons in one God, and the trinity on earth is a family: three persons, one of them God! But it is Joseph's authority and example as the head of the earthly trinity that the Son of God must submit to and follow, teaching us to do the same.

Jesus is the greatest example of humility and being poor in spirit, for *"although He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you, by His poverty, might become rich"* (2 Cor 8:9)

Immediately after the miracle of the sun in Fatima on October 13, 1917, the Holy Family appears, with Joseph holding the Child Jesus. Father and Son bless the world from the heavens, where Joseph occupies a great place of honor, retaining the highest

reverence after Mary as earthly father of the Savior God. As the great Doctor of the Church, St Teresa of Avila, wrote: *"Saints give us help in some necessities, but only Joseph gives us help in them all. As Jesus was subject to him on earth, he still does what Joseph asks in heaven."*



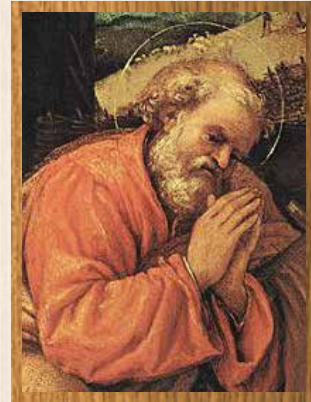
PRAYER

Dear Blessed Joseph, pious and poor,
yet so rich in love and fidelity, open
my heart to receive the gift of Piety, the
most precious gift of intimacy with the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lend me your pious heart that I may be
one with you, united with the Hearts
of Jesus and Mary.

Grant that you, my Father, will
transfuse into my heart your pious
love, that I may be rich in piety and
poor in spirit to enter the Kingdom of
God.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**





THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS

IV

FOURTH MYSTERY

The Presentation of Jesus

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Counsel

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Luke 2: 22-32

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every first born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”, and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the



custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

MEDITATION

Forty days after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary arrive in the temple of Jerusalem to present their first-born Son to the Lord as prescribed by the Law. The devout priest, Simeon, filled with the gift of counsel, is instructed by the Holy Spirit to hasten to the temple to meet the long-awaited Messiah. After receiving and blessing the Holy Family, Simeon prophetically proclaims:



“Behold, this child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign of contradiction so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.” Turning to Mary, he adds: “And a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” (Lk. 2: 34-35)

From his birth, Jesus is destined to be a sign of contradiction. He is born a Savior, yet so many innocents will die in his stead, victims of Herod’s sword. He is born the Prince of Peace, and his greeting is “Peace be with you,” (Lk 24:36, Jn 14:27, Jn 20: 19, 21, 26), yet He says, “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Mt. 10:34).

And again: “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!... Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?? No, I tell you, but rather division!” (Lk. 12:49,51)

He lives a life of innocence and perfection, even raising people from the dead, yet he is executed as the worst of criminals – the guiltless one weighed down with sin. He is mocked as the King of Jerusalem, his robe scarlet with blood; he rules from a cross of wood, his crown studded with thorns. The cross, a cruel death symbol, he transforms to a sign of victory and redemption, and his death becomes the promise of everlasting life.

Jesus pursues peace with spiritual warfare, and for this he is put to death, for He proclaims that the way to peace is to make war with evil, and to fight with *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph 6:17). This sword, forged by the Holy Spirit, sharp with His gift of counsel, separates good from evil, and directs us to do God’s will. Therefore Jesus becomes a division between those who obey or reject him, he separates the godly from the ungodly, the wise sheep from the foolish goats.

Waging peace begins with God’s word – listening to it and living it – so that our hearts, kindled with God’s love, set the world on fire as he wishes. We dress for battle as St Paul instructs us, with truth belted around our waists, *“having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having strapped on [our] feet the...gospel of peace”* (Eph 6:15). And we take up the sword of the Spirit, going to those living in darkness – to the beggar, the leper, the sinner – to fight evil and injustice with love.

Jesus’ gospel of love is so radical that his Word pierces many consciences – revealing



the thoughts of many hearts – and exposing them to the light of truth. For those who prefer deafness and darkness, an actual sword is used to silence him – thrust into the heart of Jesus – piercing also the heart of Mary, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Simeon.

Whoever preaches the truth will bring about division, and, like Jesus, be a sign of contradiction that will be spoken against and silenced. But this is the true essence of peacemaking: to bring about God's reign of mercy and justice, waging peace, as the Prince of Peace did, by absorbing evil with love through our crosses.

Blessed then are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. They go forth, sent by the Father, to build His kingdom of holiness, kindling the earth with His Love as humble warriors of peace. Faith is the shield that protects them, their helmet is salvation, and on their feet is strapped the Good News to set all prisoners free.



St. Joseph did not live to be with his family in their greatest sufferings. He was afflicted with sorrow for many years knowing this, as Simeon did not mention his name. Yet this silent warrior of peace, who counselled Jesus on earth, continues to counsel us from heaven, especially those who turn to him with great trust. As the Protector and Patron of the Universal Church, and also the Pillar of Families, he guides, protects and counsels us in all of our needs. The greatest theologian of the Catholic Church, St Thomas Aquinas, wrote: *“The power given to Joseph is unlimited! It extends to all our needs. All those who invoke him with confidence are sure to be heard.”*

PRAYER

St. Joseph, silent warrior of peace, protector of our Faith, counselor of the Lord, teach me the ways of peace that my faith will be fruitful with just deeds that I may be a true peacemaker.

Instruct me with the Spirit of Counsel that, like your Son, I may wage peace with spiritual warfare in the name of truth and justice.

Present me to the Lord of Peace as your adopted child so that I may truly be a child of God. Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**





THE EXILE OF THE HOLY FAMILY
TO EGYPT

V

FIFTH MYSTERY

The Exile of the Holy Family to Egypt

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fortitude

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are they who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 2:13

“When they departed, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”

Matthew 2:18

“A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentations; Rachel weeping for her children and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.”



MEDITATION

Shortly after the Magi depart, the Angel of the Lord appears again in a dream, instructing Joseph to flee from the domain of the tyrant Herod who, determined to kill the Messiah King, has ordered the slaughter of all male children two years of age and under.

Joseph immediately gathers their few belongings, and with Mother and Child

astride a donkey, he begins his own way of the Cross under a darkened sky. It is a long and perilous journey to a pagan land, where they will live as unwelcome strangers in exile.

His heart is in agony as he contemplates the cruel fate that awaits the innocents and their mothers, and what will be the piercing sound of their wailing as victims of Herod's sword. He prays in silence for them – for those who will die that his Son may live –



the first of many martyrs. He prays for all who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and he ponders on this mystery of innocent suffering, caused this night by an evil and ruthless king. He wonders how anyone could fear the Messiah Son, the innocent one born to die to save His people from sin, the long-expected one who will usher in God's kingdom of righteousness.

Joseph remembers Simeon and his prophecy at the Temple – that Jesus would cause the rise and fall of many and reveal the thoughts of men's hearts – and he comes to realize that the God-man is not exempt from persecution. From the history of his own people, Joseph knows that evil men in every age persecute the children of God and thwart the divine plan of salvation. This time is no different.

Joseph also remembers that Simeon turned to Mary at the Temple and prophesied that

her soul would be pierced by a sword. From Simeon's silence in his regard, he knows in his heart that his beloved spouse would have to suffer alone with their Divine Son in the redemption of mankind. She alone will be the Co-Redemptrix, the Mother's heart pierced with the heart of the Son in a sorrowful but unbreakable union of hearts.



In his humility of heart and poverty of spirit, Joseph did not inquire from the prophet Simeon about his own fate. Rather, with

complete trust, he puts his fate in the hands of the Father. In this moment of surrender, a sword pierces his own heart, to remain there until his last heartbeat on earth. His spiritual pain is intense, knowing that he would not be present to alleviate or share in the sufferings of his beloved Son and Spouse to whose care he has completely dedicated himself.

Trusting in the Lord, Joseph keeps these mysteries in his heart as he silently leads his family across the dark and desolate land.

The Holy Spirit descends upon Joseph, filling him with the Gift of Fortitude – the celestial courage and strength to bear all earthly adversity, with his eyes fixed firmly on his heavenly home. Persecution becomes the fire that purifies his soul, fortifies his resolve and inflames his heart with greater love of God, and in his silent suffering, he comes to know the nature of his own role – that of

silent sacrifice as an obedient servant of the Father, in the loving offering of himself, his Son and his spouse for the redemption of mankind. He knows that he is the Father's substitute and surrogate on earth, and that His own silent offering will mirror the silent sacrifice of the Father in heaven of His Son, prefigured by Abraham's willing sacrifice of Isaac in the time of his ancestors.

God has chosen His Son's guardian wisely. From being the faithful and obedient guardian of the Savior and His Mother, Joseph will be proclaimed in 1870 the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church.

Surely, he is most blessed in heaven as one persecuted for righteousness' sake, and a true image of the Eternal Father.

PRAYER

Dear Father Joseph, enkindle in me the fire of your love, that the Spirit of Fortitude will also burn in me, to purify and strengthen me, to guard my own family from all and every evil as you guarded your family, and to prepare me to bear the cross of persecution for holiness' sake, that I may persevere to the end and enter the Kingdom of God for all eternity. Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**



FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

VI

SIXTH MYSTERY

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Understanding

BEATITUDE

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Luke 2: 41-52

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey and sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him.

After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his

mother said to him: "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them: "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be my Father's house?" And they did not understand what he spoke to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men."



MEDITATION

How often in life we search for our loved ones in sorrow, seeing them separated from God or from us. We wonder about God's plan or purpose, even feeling abandoned at times. We question why He allows suffering, and if there meaning in our loss and pain.

Mary and Joseph experience deep sorrow and anxiety when they lose Jesus for three days. Upon returning separately from the annual Passover feast in Jerusalem, they discover their Son missing, and they make the long journey back to the Temple to find Jesus there, discussing the teachings of the patriarchs and prophets with the doctors of the Jewish Law. All were amazed at his knowledge and answers.

Jesus is twelve, the age when Jewish boys prepare for their full initiation as adult members of their religious community at

age thirteen. Instead of waiting another year, Jesus is now going about His Father's business. He comes to a fuller understanding of His mission in accordance with His Father's will, and He awakens to His role in His Father's plan. It is also an awakening of His loving parents, who express their deep sorrow to Him. Jesus' reply to them, *"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"* is His way of saying, *"Do you not understand that this is what I was born for – to be attending to My Father's affairs? Where else would I be but in My Father's house?"*



Mary and Joseph are unprepared for this sudden awakening to their Son's mission. In their tender love for Him, they try to understand the deeper meaning of His words. Nor does Mary fully realize that this loss is a foretaste, a preparation, for the three days after Jesus' death when He would be lost to her again.

Both Mother and Son sought understanding and compassion from each other, the mother for her and Joseph's sorrow for three days, afraid of some grave misfortune, and the Son for His parents' understanding of the priority of the mission entrusted to Him.

Mary and Joseph treasure these things in their hearts. Jesus, for His part, acknowledges their authority over Him and He goes obediently with them, growing in wisdom and grace until the time of His public ministry.

To treasure things in the heart is to ponder them in silence and contemplation, waiting

for the gift of understanding from the Holy Spirit – a gift which gives penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially the things of God, enabling one to “see”. Jesus spoke about the gift of understanding in the parable of the sower, given in Matthew 13, when His disciples asked Him why He spoke in parables:

“This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing



they do not hear, nor do they understand. With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says: 'You will indeed hear, but never understand, and you will indeed see, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn to me to heal them.'

"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the



evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; ... As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The hearts of Joseph and Mary are rich and fertile soil. The living word of Jesus is planted and rooted in them deeply and grows, and thus they bear fruit that yields a hundredfold.

It is this true understanding of God's word 'with their hearts' that prepares the Holy Spouses to see God's plan and purpose and to bear whatever is necessary for His kingdom and glory, even hardships, loss and sorrow. Thus, even in their mourning, they will be comforted by God, not by the alleviation of suffering, but with His supply of strength and hope. Thus, Rachel, in the loss of her children to Herod, will be comforted by their blessedness with God forever.

The gift of understanding also leads one's heart to compassion for the sorrows of others. Thus, blessed also are they who mourn for others. They shall be comforted by the compassionate hearts of Mary and Joseph, who understand what it is to suffer great loss.



PRAYER

Blessed Joseph, whose sorrows are suffered in silence, grant that I may be blessed with the Spirit of Understanding, to understand with my heart the living word of Jesus and His will for me, and to bring comfort and compassion to those sorrowing, so that I too may be comforted in my own sorrows which I join with your own and with the Sorrowful Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**



DEATH OF ST. JOSEPH

VII

SEVENTH MYSTERY

The Death of St. Joseph

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wisdom

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are they who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Wisdom 8: 1-7

She [Wisdom] reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

I loved her and sought her from my youth, and I desired to take her for my bride, and I became enamored of her beauty. She glorifies her noble birth by living with God, and the Lord of all loves her. For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God, and an associate in his works. If riches are a desirable possession in life, what is richer than wisdom who effects all things? And if understanding is effective, who more than she is fashioner of what exists? And if any one loves righteousness, her labors are virtues; for she teaches self-control and prudence,

justice and courage; nothing in life is more profitable for men than these.



MEDITATION

Christian tradition tells us that St. Joseph died the holiest and happiest of deaths, held in the embrace of Jesus and Mary, and it is to him, the Patron of a Happy Death, that we

pray to have a blessed ending. But his dying is not without tears – those of joy mingled with sorrow – the Holy Family now being physically separated before Jesus' hour has come.

Joseph's inestimable joy is to be in the presence of His beloved Jesus and Mary, but having completed his mission on earth he must now leave for eternity. He is not to be part of the twin agony and passion of the Savior Son and His Mother and will no longer be able to protect and console them in their co-redemption of mankind. He knows,



so wisely, that he must disappear because soon Jesus will call God his own Father, and the Father, in Jesus' first public appearance at the River Jordan, will announce to the world, *"this is My beloved Son"* (Mt 3:17). The son of the carpenter, newly baptized, will be publicly proclaimed as God's Son.

He recalls the episode at the temple, when Jesus at twelve years of age spoke to him of His Father's business, and now, with the fullness of wisdom, Joseph fully understands. He knows that there is nothing more important or holy than to be about the Father's business, and as his Son was to fulfill the Scriptures, he was to father God's only begotten Son. As his Son came *"not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me"* (Jn.6:38), so Joseph lives in imitation of his Son. It can even be said that the Son lived in imitation of His earthly father, from whom he learned perfect obedience to His Heavenly One.

Jesus and Mary bid Joseph farewell with loving kisses. Mother and Son lovingly embrace and bless him, and they entrust his soul to the care of the Eternal Father who sends a retinue of angels to escort his soul to Limbo, where he is to await the Resurrection and the opening of the gates of heaven. In Limbo, Joseph becomes a herald, announcing the good news of the coming redemption to the holy souls who are waiting.

In his role as foster father of the Messiah, Joseph was filled by the Holy Spirit with the



gift of Wisdom, the first and highest of all His gifts. He was able to have an intimate understanding of divine truths which made him savor and love only the things of heaven. Wisdom allowed him to see and judge the things of the world as God sees and judges, and profound was his insight into God's Word and Law and Love, producing in him, to a heroic degree, the virtues of justice, courage, prudence and self-control. Thus Joseph fulfilled his role to perfection by living as "a just and upright man" (Mt 1:19).

This passage from Proverbs 2:6-11 perhaps best describes the special graces given to Joseph as the wise and "just man" – one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness and godliness, and is satisfied to the full:

*For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge
and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,*

*guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his saints.
Then you will understand righteousness
and justice and equity, every good path;
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to
your soul; discretion will watch over you;
understanding will guard you;*

In all his travails and tribulations, whenever put to the test, Joseph never doubts the goodness of God. He trusts God beyond all reason, whether in joy or adversity, and now that he lies dying, and is about to leave his family, he once again puts himself at the service of God's plan.

Having kept silent throughout Scripture, without a single word of his recorded, Joseph departs from this earth, consumed with divine love. He leaves quietly and in silence, in the same manner in which he lived. The Evangelists do not record a single passage

relating to his death, perhaps out of respect for his profound humility and hiddenness as the faithful servant of God's Mother and Son.

Here, we can imagine these verses from Psalm 116 on the lips and heart of the good St Joseph, as he takes his last breath:

*What shall I render to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.
O LORD, I am thy servant;
I am thy servant, the son of thy
handmaid.
Thou hast loosed my bonds.
I will offer to thee the sacrifice of
thanksgiving and call on the
name of the LORD.*

*I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!*



PRAYER

Father Joseph, just and wise, you have run the race and emerged victorious, faithful and true.

Teach me the ways of Wisdom that my life will bring forth justice and truth.

Give me your hunger for righteousness and your thirst for justice that I may walk the good path and have my fill of God's merciful love.

Grant me a share of your Wisdom that I may be a faithful and obedient servant in imitation of you, my Father, to enjoy the fullness of God's Holy Presence at the end of my life, Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**



THE RAISING OF ST. JOSEPH TO LIVE
AND HIS ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN

VIII

EIGHTH MYSTERY

**The Raising of St. Joseph to Life
and His Assumption into Heaven**

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Knowledge

BEATITUDE

**Blessed are the pure of heart
For they will see God.**

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

1 Cor 15: 12-20

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.



MEDITATION

At the time of St. Joseph's death, the redemption of man was yet to be accomplished by his Son, so the gates of Paradise were not yet open to those who died in holiness, including the patriarchs, prophets, saints and martyrs of Israel. But just after Jesus surrendered his life on the cross, the tombs of many holy people opened and they rose from the dead.

The evangelist Matthew recounts this in Mt. 27:51-53: *"And behold, the curtain of the*

temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split; the tombs were also opened, and the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many."

Early Christians believed that among the holy ones who were raised to life at the time of the Resurrection were St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist, the foster father and the



forerunner of Jesus. They entered the city and were seen by many. The great humility of Joseph did not permit the evangelists to record even one word spoken by him, much less this event of his being raised to life.

Many saints and mystics also believe that the risen Jesus appeared first to His Mother before He appeared to Mary Magdalene, though this is not recorded in Scripture. Imagine the great rejoicing of the Holy Family as the risen Jesus appears to His Mother, and they are joined by St. Joseph. What a great reunion of this sacred family, with tears of joy streaming down their holy faces, singing praises of homage and glory to God.

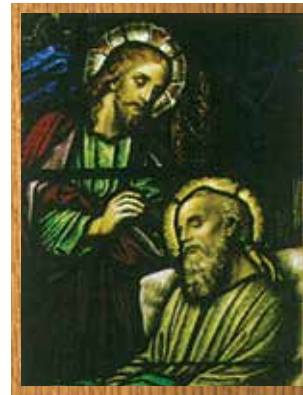
They also believe that Joseph was assumed into heaven, as Mary later was. St. Augustine and other Church Fathers stated that, with the exception of Mary, no other person was as close to Jesus as Joseph, and it would therefore be unacceptable that his body be left in the ground. St. Francis de Sales

pointed out that there is no tomb or relics of St Joseph. He was certain that this holiest of saints was raised to heaven with Jesus on Ascension Day. He wrote: *"How could we doubt that our Lord raised glorious St Joseph into Heaven, body and soul? For He had the honor and grace of carrying Him so often in his blessed arms, arms in which our Lord took so much pleasure. St Joseph is therefore in heaven, body and soul, without a doubt."* St. Bernardino of Sienna wrote that Jesus assumed Joseph into heaven, so that *"in this way, all of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – who lived together on earth, would reign together in heaven."* In 1960, Pope John XXIII also wrote that both Joseph and John the Baptist were assumed into heaven on the day of Jesus's Ascension, having been given the honor and privilege of accompanying Him.

Who could imagine the glories and honors reserved for St. Joseph as he is escorted to Paradise by His Risen Son? What celebration

and rejoicing as the Son presents His earthly father to His Heavenly One! What a special place of honor is given to St. Joseph, befitting one whom his Son will call forever "my beloved father".

Blessed indeed is Joseph, pure of heart, for he sees God face to face. Filled is he with the Spirit's gift of Knowledge, so that he never wanders from the path of justice, living always as *"a just man"* (Mt. 1:19). We do not speak here of common knowledge, acquired by anyone, but of a right judgment



concerning eternal truths, enabling us to see God as He is and created things as they are, so that we desire God alone. It is a gift of the intimate knowledge of God and the things of God, given only to the pure in heart. In Jesus's words: *"...no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him."* (Mt. 11:27)

How much of the Heavenly Father Jesus must have revealed to his earthly father! Filled with this sacred knowledge, Joseph is not only pure in heart, he is single hearted, living the life of the Beatitudes to the full. He is the first man to fulfil the counsel of Jesus: *"Be perfect... as your Heavenly Father is perfect."* (Mt. 5:48) As such, he is the greatest of all the saints in heaven, second only to Mary, Queen of All Saints.

PRAYER

Blessed St. Joseph, you know my failings in living the Beatitudes, how far I am from your witness in the ways of God, in being a just and holy man. But I trust in your fatherhood as you are the father of Divine Mercy.

Be a merciful father: Protect me and my loved ones from the evil one. Send the Angels to guard us, the Saints to guide us.

Bring us closer to the Hearts of your Son and His Mother and speak a kind word to them on our behalf, that we too, one day, may enter Paradise and come to the full knowledge of God in the company of your Holy Family, with all the angels and saints. Amen.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**



THE EXALTATION OF MARY AND JOSEPH

IX

NINTH MYSTERY

The Exaltation of Mary and Joseph

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Love of God

BEATITUDE

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Matt 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law, tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Matt 25: 40

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."



MEDITATION

At God's appointed hour, the Blessed Mother, having witnessed at the foot of the Cross the birth of the Church in the living waters of Baptism and in the Precious Blood of the Eucharist which flowed from the pierced Heart of her crucified Son, her own heart also pierced as prophesied by Simon; having birthed the Church on her maternal

knees with the disciples gathered around her at Pentecost, praying as blazing tongues of fire descended upon them; and having shepherded the early Church to her last days on earth, departs for Paradise to enter into the Father's reward, and to join her Son and her most chaste spouse.

Accompanied by her Savior Son, with archangels and choirs of cherubim and seraphim, amidst trumpet blasts and hymns of praise and jubilation, she enters in glory, body and soul, into the kingdom of Heaven.

St. Joseph welcomes his Blessed Spouse with a holy embrace, and the Holy Family – the trinity of persons on earth who mirrored the love of the Holy Trinity in heaven – are united at last in the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who welcome the Blessed Mary, resplendent in glory, and crown her Queen of Heaven and Earth. St. Joseph, his heart overflowing with joy, takes his place



of honor beside the Queen Mother and their Son in this celestial celebration. His Holy Family is re-united, his heart is at rest, his entire being at peace, knowing his beloved ones are home.

Truly, as Mary prayed in her Magnificat when visiting her cousin Elizabeth, *"God puts down the mighty from their thrones, and exalts the lowly"* (Lk.1: 52) And truly blessed, Jesus preached, are they who endure insult, persecution and slander in His name, for great will be their reward in heaven. We see this clearly in the lives

of Mary and Joseph, filled with the love of God, and exalted above all creatures in the heavenly realm.

The Love of God is not listed as one of the seven gifts of the Spirit because it encompasses all the gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Piety, Fortitude, Fear of the Lord. These seven gifts are like the branches of a mighty tree whose unshakeable trunk is the Love of God.

“God is Love...” (1 Jn 4:16a). His very nature is Love – a Love that seeks the good of all and gifts Himself to all. The life of every Christian must be marked by this Love, which is not the self-seeking love embraced by the world, but the self-sacrificing love exemplified by God’s Son. Not only is this Love the essential mark of God’s family, we are commanded by God to love: *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love*



one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn 13: 34-35). Our love of God is inseparable from our love of neighbor, for the love we receive must in turn be shared, making us channels of God’s love. At the end of our lives, we will be judged by how we loved one another as we ourselves are loved.

Mary responded perfectly to God’s love with her perfect love of God, the Sacred



Heart of her Son formed in her Immaculate Heart, drawing His lifeblood from her very blood. Every drop of blood shed for our salvation had its source from Mary's Heart and is transformed into the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus which we consume in the Sacrifice of the Mass. It is this Holy Communion of love, flowing from His pierced Heart as living water, which gives life to the Church, and makes us blood brothers and sisters of Jesus and children of Mary. God's very life and Love is transfused in us through the Eucharist.

This blood union unites us to an Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary in a kingdom not of this world, a kingdom where God's justice and loving mercy reign. Joseph was the first one to be united to this Alliance of Hearts, whose own heart, filled with love of God and family, transforms an alliance to a *Trinity* of Hearts – father, mother and child. He is the perfect model and guide for us to enter this sacred union, joining our hearts to those of Jesus, Mary and his own, that we may forever belong to a family in a trinitarian union of love.



PRAYER

Father Joseph, so great is your love for God that He has exalted and clothed you with authority over His Son, who still listens to you as his beloved father. Grant that we may grow daily in greater love for God.

Humble Joseph, in your poverty of spirit, you have gained the eternal riches of the Kingdom of God. May we imitate your surrender to God's providence, your total trust in Him, and be enriched with His peace.

Merciful Joseph, meek and pure of heart, guide my family to live the way of Jesus and Mary, to live the Beatitudes as your Holy Family did. Grant that the Holy Spirit bless and assist us with His Gifts.

Just and loving Joseph, pray that we may love one another the way your Son loves us, giving of ourselves materially, physically and sacrificially in Love.

Finally, my dearest Patron, grant that you will prepare a place in heaven for me and my family, and for all who live humbly and obediently in the ways of God.

**Our Father. Ten Hail Marys. Glory Be.
Father Joseph, we entrust our souls
to you.**



Act of Consecration to St Joseph

by Angelyn Dee

O dearest and glorious Saint Joseph, in imitation of Jesus and Mary, I entrust myself entirely to you, and rejoice that you are my father! Protect me in this life, and lead me in the way of salvation. I entrust myself, body and soul, all my concerns and undertakings, my family and all my relationships, to your guidance and safekeeping.

Obtain for me, dear Saint Joseph, purity of heart and body, humility, meekness and diligence, and a fervent love of prayer. Grant me a spirit of sacrifice, and teach me attentive silence, and how to live for God's greater glory in union with you, Jesus and Mary.

And finally, O Blessed Saint Joseph, grant me as your child, a peaceful and

joyful death in the presence of your Holy Family. Amen.

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

by St. Bernardine of Siena

Oh my beloved St. Joseph, adopt me as thy child. Take charge of my salvation; watch over me day and night; preserve me from the occasions of sin; obtain for me purity of heart and body. Through your intercession with Jesus, grant me a spirit of sacrifice, humility, self-denial, burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a sweet and tender love for Mary, my mother. St. Joseph, be with me living, be with me dying, and obtain for me a favorable judgement from Jesus, my merciful Savior. Amen.

A Prayer for Parents to St Joseph

O glorious Saint Joseph, to you God committed the care of His only begotten

Son amid the many dangers of this world. We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection the children God has given us. Through baptism they became children of God and members of His holy Church. We entrust them to you today, and entrust to you their salvation. Look after them as your own. Guard them and guide them in life, and form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Saint Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when your child Jesus was lost, protect our dear children for time and eternity. May you be their father and counsellor, their model and intercessor. Let them, like Jesus, grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men. Preserve them from the corruption of his world, and give us the grace one day to be united with them in Heaven forever. Amen.

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

Hail, St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. God our Father entrusted to you His Only Son.

In you, Mary placed her trust; With you Christ Jesus became man. One with Our Lord Jesus and the Blessed Mother.

We honor you with sincere love and veneration. We choose you this day to be our father, our guardian and our protector.

God our Father has allowed us to celebrate this year dedicated to your honor and also the joyful 500th anniversary of Christianity in our land.

With grateful hearts we recognize you

as a great gift of God to us to be our companion, teacher, model and protector in this Jubilee year. We come to you to entrust our people, the Church of the Philippines, our dioceses, parishes and families.

On your feast day as worker, we entrust too our workers, looking with special concern at those unemployed.

With fatherly love and care you provided and built the life of the Holy Family at Nazareth.

We humbly beg you to bless all our undertakings and help us to build the church, the body of Jesus Christ, in obedient faith, steadfast love and unwavering hope in our loving Father.

You were always ready to listen and obey the Father's will and protected

Jesus from all dangers.

Deliver us from all dangers that destroy the Gospel values and teachings in our land.

Protect us all as we battle against all moral and physical illnesses in our society.

We entrust to you all our longings and desires that lead us to salvation.

We entrust to you all our families and all fathers that they may be true to their vocation as mirrors of the love of our Father in heaven.

We entrust to you all our works to help our brothers and sisters in their sufferings. To you, St. Joseph, after Jesus and Mary, we consecrate our body and soul, with all that we are and have.

St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father. Guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



NIHIL OBSTAT:

Fr. Genaro O. Diwa, SLL
Executive Secretary
CBCP Episcopal Commission on Liturgy
Director, Archdiocesan Liturgical
Commission, Manila
March 19, 2021

IMPRIMATUR:

MOST REV. TEODORO C. BACANI, JR., D.D.
Bishop-Emeritus of Novaliches

MOST REV. GUILLERMO V. AFABLE, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of Digos

March 18, 2021

LIVING THE BEATITUDES WITH SAINT JOSEPH
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