

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 21

Joseph Most Faithful, Pray for Us

The Church admires the simplicity and the depth of his [St. Joseph's] faith. – St. John Paul II

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen spoke of three rings in marriage: the engagement ring, the wedding ring and the suffering. Those who are married know this to be true. Marriage is not easy. It begins with a honeymoon and will be filled with many hardships, difficulties and trials. For a marriage to work, mutual love, sacrifice and faithfulness are necessary.

A Christian's relationship with God is a spiritual marriage. It, too, requires mutual love, sacrifice and faithfulness. Those who are spiritually espoused to God need to be faithful in good times and in bad, in health and in sickness, in riches and in poverty. St. Joseph was always faithful to his wife and to God.

St. Joseph is a model of faith. Faith is one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and charity). But what exactly is faith? How is it defined? The Letter of the Hebrews gives us a good definition. It states: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Christian faith acknowledges who Jesus is, and he is to his teachings and trust in his promises.

Joseph was deeply pious; he prayed much for the coming of the Messiah. – Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

A Christian is called to have faith in Jesus and trust in him. Acknowledging who Jesus is just is not enough. Demons acknowledge who Jesus is (see Matthew 8:29; Mark 5:7; Luke 8:28), but they do not love or trust him. St. Joseph, on the other hand, is a model of faith and trust. He knows who Jesus is and trusts in him. St. Joseph held fast to Jesus' words even when his mind and senses were unable to completely understand what Jesus meant. St. Joseph exercised an active, trusting and zealous faith.

St. Joseph never doubted the divinity of Jesus or his power to conquer evil. To the world, Jesus looked like an ordinary child, but St. Joseph knew he was God. He adored our Lord in the cradle, in the home in Nazareth, in the temple of Jerusalem and as a grown man in his workshop. St. Joseph was always aware that, in seeing Jesus, he was gazing upon God Almighty.

St. Joseph was faithful to Jesus in good times and in bad (at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and when Jesus was lost in the Temple in Jerusalem). St. Joseph was faithful to Jesus in health and in sickness (teaching Jesus to be a good carpenter and dying in the arms of Jesus). St. Joseph was faithful to Jesus in riches and in poverty (when gold was given to Jesus by the Magi, and when the gold ran out and they lived in poverty in Egypt).

St. Joseph will increase your faith. Today, it is not easy to be faithful to Jesus. The world does not want you to trust Jesus, hope in his promises or love him. If you live according to the teachings of Jesus, you will be ridiculed and mocked by the world, and maybe even by your family and friends. Should you endure exile and isolation out of love for Jesus, he is worth it. Should you suffer financial loss out of love for the truth, God will reward you. If you are belittled, spoken ill of and culminated because of your stance against abortion, homosexual "marriage" and contraception, your reward will be great in heaven.

Imitate the faith and loving trust of St. Joseph. Be steadfast, trusting and Intrepid in your faith.

It is precisely that Intrepid faith of St. Joseph that the Church needs today in order to courageously dedicate herself to the urgent task of the new evangelization. – St. John Paul II

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, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us
St. Joseph,
Noble scion of David,
Light of the Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Sedulous 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 all who labor,
Glory of family life,
Protector of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Consolation of the afflicted,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of the demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of his household.
R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray. God, Who, in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom, on earth, we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen

