

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 37

NOTABLE QUOTES ABOUT ST. JOSEPH

Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is, the Church. – St. John Paul II

There is but one fatherhood, that of God the Father, the one Creator of the world, of all that is seen and unseen. Yet man, created in the image of God, has been granted a share in this one paternity of God (Ephesians 3:15). St. Joseph is a striking case of this, since he is a father, without fatherhood according to the flesh. He is not the biological father of Jesus, whose Father is God alone, and yet he lives his fatherhood fully and completely. To be a father means above all to be at the service of life and growth. St. Joseph, in this sense, gave proof of great devotion. – Pope Benedict XVI

Love St. Joseph a lot. Love him with all your soul, because he, together with Jesus, is the person who has most loved our Blessed Lady and been closest to God. He is the person who has most loved God, after our Mother. He deserves your affection, and it will do you good to get to know him, because he is the Master of the interior life, and has great power before the Lord and before the Mother of God. – St. Josémaría Escrivá

Devotion to St. Joseph is powerful because he gives his protection, his example and his blessing. – St. George Preca

There is a general rule concerning all special graces granted to any human being. Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty location, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand. This general rule is especially verified in the case of St. Joseph. – St. Bernadine of Siena

Consider that the Holy Spirit chose only Joseph to be the protector of the Blessed Virgin, to be her true husband and consequently, no created being can equal the glory of this great saint. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

I saw heaven opened and St. Joseph sitting upon a magnificent throne. I felt myself wonderfully affected when, each time his name was mentioned, all the saints made a profound inclination toward him, showing by the serenity and sweetness of their looks that they rejoiced with him on account of his exalted dignity. – St. Gertrude the Great

I have only my great devotion to St. Joseph. This it is that guides me and gives me full confidence. – St. Andre Bessette

When you invoke St. Joseph, you do not have to speak much. You know your Father in heaven knows what you need; well, so does his friend St. Joseph. Tell them, "If you were in my place, St. Joseph, what would you do?" – St. Andre Bessette

St. Joseph sweetly and continuously stimulates us to love, serve and imitate the Queen of his heart, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus. – Blessed Gabriele Allegra

Like Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. – Pope Benedict XVI

Mary, my mother, Joseph, my father, give me your eyes to contemplate Jesus; give me our hearts and spirits to understand him, and to be impassioned for him. – Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

With the exception of our loving Mother, St. Joseph stands above all the saints. – St. Maximilian Kolbe

Rejoice, devout servants of St. Joseph, for you are close to paradise; the ladder leading up to it has but three rungs, Jesus, Mary and Joseph. – St. Leonard of Port Maurice

Who is not aware that, after the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is, of all the saints, the one who is the dearest to God? – St. Alphonsus Liguori

How great is the dignity of that son of David, Joseph, the husband of Mary. – Blessed Gabriele Allegra

He [St. Joseph] was the Progeny of a patriarchal, regal and princely stock according to the direct line. From this it is evident that the dignity of the patriarchs, kings and princes terminated in Joseph. – St. Bernadine of Siena

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid." Otherwise, while troubled in mind, you may fail to understand this mystery. "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid." What you see in him is virtue, not sin. This is not a human fall, but a divine descent. Here is a reward, not guilt. This is an enlargement from heaven, not a detriment to the body. This is not the betrayal of a person, it is the secret of the Judge. Here is the victory of him who knows the case, not the penalty of torture. Here is not some man's stealthy deed, but the treasure of God. Here there is a cause not of death, but of life. Therefore, do not be afraid. – St. Peter Chrysologus

If you wish to be close to Christ, we again today repeat, "Go to Joseph." – Venerable Pope Pius XII

If you want to form an idea of St. Joseph's greatness, consider that by a divine privilege he merited to bear the title "Father of Jesus." Reflect too that his own name "Joseph" means – an increase. Keeping in mind the great patriarch Joseph, sold by his brothers in Egypt, understand that our saint has inherited not only his name, but even more, his power, his innocence and his sanctity. As the patriarch Joseph stored the wheat not for himself, but for the people in their time of need, so Joseph has received a heavenly commission to watch over the living Bread not for himself alone, but for the entire world. – St. Bernard of Clairvaux

[Saint] Joseph is still charged with guarding the Living Bread. – Venerable Fulton J Sheen

Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you! – (Genesis 41:55)

I do not agree with the traditional picture of St. Joseph as an old man, even though it may have been prompted by a desire to emphasize the perpetual virginity of Mary. I see him as a strong, young man, perhaps a few years older than Our Lady, but in the prime of his life and work. – St. Josemaria Escriva

God would not have given the most holy Virgin to Joseph as his wife unless he had been holy and righteous. What right-minded father would ever give his most beloved daughter in marriage to a man who was not moral and beyond reproach according to his rank and state in life? – St. Lawrence of Brindisi

I thank you, O holy patriarch Joseph, because we who are incapable of even knowing how to love Jesus and our Immaculate Mother, know and rejoice that you at least loved her as she deserved to be loved, the worthy and true Mother of Jesus. – Blessed Gabriele Allegra

No husband and wife ever loved one another so much as Joseph and Mary. – Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Everything that refers to that marriage [of Mary and Joseph] happened by an intimate disposition of the Holy Spirit. – St. Bonaventure

It is perfectly in accordance with the faith and spirit of the Church, to honor as a virgin not only the Mother of God, but likewise Joseph. – St. Peter Damian

Mary belonged to Joseph, and Joseph to Mary, so much so that their marriage was very real, since they gave themselves to each other. But how could they do this? Behold the triumph of purity. They reciprocally gave their virginity and over this virginity they gave each other a mutual right. What right? To safeguard the other's virtue. – St. Peter Julian Eymard

The Virgin [Mary] has been wed to the virginal bridegroom [Joseph]. Yet she – who married Joseph out of obedience to her elders – has no fear for her virginity under Joseph's protection. Having placed her trust in God, she delegated to a man the safeguarding of the greatest treasure. She – who had dedicated the flower virginity to God earlier in a solemn ceremony – had no doubt that she would have a virginal spouse. – St. Stanislaus Papczynski

To give life to someone is the greatest of all gifts. To save a life is the next. Who gave life to Jesus? It was Mary. Who saved his life? It was Joseph. Ask St. Paul who persecuted him. St. Peter who denied him. Ask all the saints who put him to death. But if we ask, "Who saved his life?" Be silent, patriarchs, be silent, prophets, be silent, apostles, confessors and martyrs. Let St. Joseph speak, for this honor is his alone; he alone is the savior of his Savior. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

To him [St. Joseph] was entrusted the Divine Child when Herod loosed his assassins against him. – Pope Pius XI

How great a share had not the glorious St. Joseph in the chalice of Jesus' passion, by the services which he rendered to his sacred humanity. – St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi

Has anyone ever visited Loreto who has not seen with his own eyes and heard with his own ears the mighty works of God, and felt them in his soul? – St. Peter Canisius

She [Mary] is said to have been born in the city of Nazareth itself, and, indeed, in the same chamber in which, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, she afterwards conceived at the Angels salutation. – St. Jerome

And is in reality the House of Nazareth that is venerated at Loreto, that House dear to God by so many claims, built originally in Galilee, separated from its foundations, and carried by divine power across the seas into Dalmatia first, and thence into Italy – the Blessed House where the most Holy Virgin, predestined from all eternity and perfectly exempt from original sin, was conceived, was born, was brought up; where heaven's messenger saluted her as full of grace; where she became the mother of the only son of God. – Blessed Pope Pius IX

The Holy House of Loreto is the dwelling in which the divine Word assumed human flesh, and which was translated by the ministry of Angels. Its authenticity is proved by ancient monuments and unbroken tradition as by the testimony of Sovereign Pontiffs, the common consent of the faithful and the continual miracles which are there worked even to the present day. – Pope Benedict XIV

To be just is to be perfectly united to the Divine Will, and, to be always conformed to it in all sorts of events whether prosperous or adverse. That St. Joseph was this, no one can doubt. – St. Francis de Sales

Behold his glory for eternity! Go to him without hesitation. He is all-powerful in heaven. As for his goodness, you cannot doubt it when you think that he spent his life in the intimacy of the hearts of Jesus and Mary – the most loving and most kindly hearts there ever were. – Blessed Jean Joseph Lataste

Joseph discovered about Mary's pregnancy and its cause, namely, that it was of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he feared to be called the husband of such a wife, and wished to put her away privately since he did not dare to reveal what had taken place in her. Yet because he was just, he desired a revelation of the mystery. – St. Basil the Great

But he thought especially of sending her away so as not to commit a sin in allowing himself to be called father of the Savior. He feared to live with her lest he dishonor the name of the Virgin's son. That is why the angel said to him, "Do not fear to take Mary to your home." – St. Ephrem of Syrian

Divine union between Our Lady and the glorious St. Joseph! By means of this union that good of eternal goods, Our Lord himself, belonged to St. Joseph as well as to Our Lady. – St. Francis de Sales

O, what pure love the virgin spouses had for each other! More than Adam and Eve in the early days of the innocence, Joseph and Mary were the delight of the Lord, the ecstasy of Angels in the humble home of Nazareth. Nazareth was similar to Eden in the first days of creation: everything was holy, everything was innocent, everything was beautiful! – Blessed Bartolo Longo

Because St. Joseph was associated with Mary in her glorious privileges, he also had to suffer like her and is hard too was pierced by seven swords. – St. Peter Julian Eymard

St. Joseph was such a great lover of God, but was afflicted by much suffering which he endured with a wonderful fortitude. – St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar

O most faithful saint who shared the mysteries of our redemption, glorious St. Joseph, the prophecy of Simeon regarding the sufferings of Jesus and Mary caused thee to shudder with mortal dread, but at the same time filled thee with a blessed joy for the salvation and glorious resurrection which, he foretold, would be attained by countless souls. – Blessed Januarius Maria Sarnelli

I see him [St. Joseph] as a strong, young man, perhaps a few years older than Our Lady, but in the prime of his life and work. – St. Josemaria Escriva

As noted by Mother Angelica when during a live telecast, a caller asked her if she thought St. Joseph was young old. She replied not only would an elderly man not be capable of walking to Egypt, but an old man wouldn't be able to walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, either; Bethlehem is 80 miles from Nazareth, and the journey would have been across rough desert terrain. After walking 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, St. Joseph was instructed by an angel to take the Child and his mother to Egypt. This required St. Joseph to take his family on another long journey. The distance from Bethlehem to the border of Egypt is 40 miles. No historians believe that the Holy Family lived on the border. Rather, that they went farther into Egypt where there was the possibility of work, food and some semblance of civilization. We don't know exactly where they settled in Egypt, but it did require them to walk farther than the border. Then, after many years of living in Egypt, St. Joseph learned from the Angel that Herod was dead. St. Joseph was now required to pack up his family and walk from Egypt all the way back to Nazareth. That is more than 120 miles! The endless walking didn't stop once the Holy Family reached Nazareth either. As faithful Jews, the men of the household were required to travel to Jerusalem 3 times a year to fulfill the Law of the Lord. "Three times a year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the God of Israel" (Exodus 34:23). Remember: that's 80 miles one way. That is a lot of walking! St. Joseph could not have been an old man when he espoused Mary. Old men do not want to Egypt. They do not walk 3 times a year from Nazareth to Jerusalem either.

In vain is your earlier rising, your going later to rest, you who toil for the bread you eat: when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber. – Psalm 127:2

The sleep of St. Joseph can teach modern man important lessons about life. One of the most important lessons it teaches us is that it is okay to rest. Being a workaholic is never a good thing. St. Joseph was not a workaholic. He liked to sleep. Sleep refreshed his soul. God communicated with St. Joseph when he slept, and he was a holier husband and father because of it. You are not wasting time when you rest. Sleep is pleasing to God. God was speak to you and refresh your soul when you sleep. God chose to speak to St. Joseph as he slept. On 4 occasions God communicated through an angel to St. Joseph very important messages in his dreams (see Matthew 1:20; 2:13, 19, 22). St. Joseph sleep is so important and powerful that Satan fears it. According to the New Testament, St. Joseph's sleep is prayer.

How many times did he [St. Joseph], like the lone sparrow, nestle on the roof of that holy temple of the divinity, contemplating this divine Child sleeping in his arms, and, thinking of his eternal repose in the bosom of the heavenly Father? – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

If the 2 disciples going to Emmaus were inflamed with divine love by the few moments which they spent in company with our Savior, and by his words; so much so, that they said, "Was not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?" – What flames of holy love must we not suppose to have been enkindled in the heart of St. Joseph, who for 30 years conversed with Jesus Christ, and listened to his words of eternal life! – St. Alphonsus Liguori

[Saint] Pope John XXIII, who had a great devotion to St. Joseph, directed that Joseph's name be inserted in the Roman Canon of Mass – which is the perpetual Memorial of redemption – after the name of Mary and before the apostles, Popes and martyrs. – St. John Paul II

The Roman Canon is the ancient Eucharistic Prayer used by the priest at Mass. For centuries, there was only one Eucharistic Prayer in the Roman Rite. After the 2nd Vatican Council (1962 – 1965) the Church started to use 4 Eucharistic Prayers, with Eucharistic Prayer 1 retaining the name of "Roman Canon." It was in Eucharistic Prayer 1, that St. Pope John XXIII inserted the name of Joseph.

Although he [St. Joseph] never adored our Lord under the Eucharistic species and never had the happiness of communicating [receiving Holy Communion], he did possess and adore Jesus in human form. – St. Peter Julian Eymard

When we receive Holy Communion, let us consider that Jesus comes to us as a little baby, and, then let us pray that St. Joseph helps us welcome him, as when he held him in his arms. – St. Joseph Marelllo

Like all Christians at that time, I too was happy and grateful at the Church's decision to declare a liturgical feast in honor of St. Joseph the Worker. This feast, which ratifies the divine value of work, shows how the Church publicly echoes central truths of the Gospel which God wishes men to mediate on, especially in our own time. – St. Josémaria Escriva

In the homily of March 19, 1963 (the Solemnity of St. Joseph), St. Josemaria Escriva reflects on St. Joseph's workshop as follows: Joseph, caring for the Child as he had been commanded, made Jesus a craftsman, transmitting his own professional skill to him. So the neighbors of Nazareth will call Jesus both father and fabri filius: the craftsman and the son of the craftsman (see Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55). Jesus worked in Joseph's workshop and by Joseph's side. What must Joseph have been, how grace must have worked through him, that he should be able to fulfill this task of the human upbringing of the Son of God!

He [St. Joseph] took his [Jesus'] little hands and raising them to heaven he said: "Stars of heaven, behold the hands which created you; O Sun, behold the arm that drew you out of nothingness. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

The Gospel does not record a single word from him [St. Joseph]; his language is silence. – St. Pope Paul VI

St. Joseph, although the greatest of saints, is the humblest and most hidden of all. – St. Peter Julian Eymard

You would think that to protect this precious treasure [Jesus], the omnipotent God would equip him [St. Joseph] with thunderbolts. Wrong. Joseph sees in his arms a figurative God and he follows him. He finds consolation only in a submission and in his confidence. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Will he, the great saint whom Jesus and Mary obeyed, who provided Jesus and Mary with their daily bread, be invoked in vain? No! – St. Luigi Guanella

Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. – Matthew 7:9 – 11

My dear St. Joseph, be with me living, be with me dying, and, obtain for me a favorable judgment from Jesus, my merciful Savior. – Pope Leo XIII

St. Joseph, my dear father, gaze upon me from heaven. Detach me from the things of earth, obtain for me purity of heart, love of God, and final perseverance. – Blessed Bartolo Longo

This glorious saint [Joseph] has great influence in heaven with him who raised him there in body and in soul. – St. Francis de Sales

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful of all prayers. It is the prayer of Jesus offering his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to the Heavenly Father for sinful mankind. A long-standing tradition in the Church has designated each day of the week with a particular theme to be recognized at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Wednesday is set aside for St. Joseph. It is the half way point between Sunday (the day of the Lord) and Saturday (the day set aside to honor Mary). Have you ever attended Mass on a Wednesday in honor of St. Joseph? It is a great way to give special honor to St. Joseph at the midpoint of the week. By going to Mass on Wednesday in St. Joseph's honor, you can draw close to your spiritual father and ask him for particular needs and intentions. St. Joseph is so neglected in the spiritual life that he longs to assist those who pour out their hearts to him.

St. Joseph also has his own month dedicated to him: March. St. Joseph is honored in a special way during the month of March because he is our spiritual father, and the greatest feast day of St. Joseph is celebrated on March 19: the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

Another aspect of devotion to St. Joseph of which many people seem to be unaware is that St. Joseph is not only the Patron of the Dying; he is also a tremendous intercessor for those we have died and are in Purgatory. This aspect of St. Joseph's powerful intercession is an untapped treasure in the Church's devotional life.

He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasure, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. What then is Joseph's position in the whole Church of Christ? Is he not a man chosen and set apart? Through him and, yes, under him, Christ was fittingly and honorably introduced into the world. Holy Church in its entirety is indebted to the Virgin Mother because through her it was judged worthy to receive Christ. But after her we undoubtedly owe special gratitude and reverence to St. Joseph. – St. Bernadine of Siena

Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to St. Joseph that he may obtain for us a happy death. – St. Alphonsus Liguori

When Joseph was dying, Mary sat at the head of his bed, holding him in her arms. Jesus stood just below her near Joseph's breast. The whole room was brilliant with light and full of Angels. After his death, his hands were crossed on his breast, he was wrapped from head to foot in a white winding sheet, laid in a narrow casket,, and placed in a very beautiful tomb, the gift of a good man. – Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

If Jeremiah had the privilege of being sanctified before birth, if St. John the Baptist received the same grace in preparation for his service as precursor of the Messiah, are we not to believe that the one who served as the father of the Savior, and husband of the Queen of virgins, was treated with equal love and mercy. – Blessed Bartolo Longo

O glorious St. Joseph, pray for me, assist me and defend me from Satan. – St. Anthony Mary Claret

It is a great blessing for souls to be under the protection of the saint whose name makes demons tremble and flee. – Blessed Bartolo Longo

The life of Blessed Bartolo Longo gives us more proof that the wonders of St. Joseph are without number and the devil is terrorized by all of them.

The fatherhood of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The humility of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The charity of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The poverty of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The purity of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The obedience of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The silence of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The suffering of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The prayer of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The name of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

The sleep of St. Joseph, terrorizes the devil.

He [St. Joseph] was head of the divine household on earth with, as it were, fatherly authority; he has the Church dedicated to his loyalty and protection. Such a person possesses so surpassing a dignity that no honor exists which should not be paid him. – Pope Leo XIII

On December 8, 1870 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception), blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. Father Jean Joseph Lataste offered the sacrifice of his life to obtain that St. Joseph be declared Patron of the Universal Church.

