

# Consecration the St. Joseph

## Part 8

### St. Joseph, Pray for Us

We see that at the beginning of the New Testament, as at the beginning of the Old, there is a married couple. But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union. – St. Paul Paul VI

Marriage is at the heart of creation and redemption. As St. Pope Paul VI states, Adam and Eve were present at the beginning of creation (Old Testament), and Joseph and Mary are present at the beginning of God's re-creation (New Testament). Jesus himself speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven as a wedding feast (see Matthew 22:2).

St. Pope Paul VII's statement at the beginning of this section is incredibly profound. On some level, he is presenting the idea that St. Joseph is the head of the new covenant family, as Adam was head of the first covenant family. This is a fascinating idea, one that has rarely been explored in theological studies. Usually, when we think of the new head of the human family (the new Adam) we think of Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15:45), and rightly so. Jesus is God; he alone regenerates humanity. Nonetheless, as Head of the Holy Family, St. Joseph was the head of our Head. He is the father of our Savior, the Patron of the Universal Church, and our spiritual father.

St. Joseph is a new Adam. St. Joseph is, after Christ, the new head of the human family. As such, we are obliged to obey the Fourth Commandment in his regard: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). Failure to love and honor St. Joseph is an offense against God. In fact, the fatherhood of St. Joseph is so important for us that our spiritual growth depends on it. If Jesus himself increased in wisdom and knowledge through the fatherhood of St. Joseph, we need St. Joseph's fatherhood to help us acquire the "proper attire" needed for entrance into the wedding feast of heaven (see Matthew 22:12).

St. Joseph will help you get to the wedding feast of heaven. Since we know that St. Joseph loves us and so we love and honor him in return, we can trust that he will help us get to heaven. The greatest thing any father can do for his children is help them get to heaven. Our first father (Adam) ruined this possibility for all his children. Our first father's disobedience caused the downfall of all creation and kept us from entering heaven. St. Joseph's fatherhood, on the other hand, elevates us and helps us to enter heaven. He loves us, helps us become saints, and brings us to the only path that leads to heaven: Jesus.

St. Joseph is the delight of saints. Every saint loves St. Joseph. It is impossible to find a single saint who did not love St. Joseph. While devotion to St. Joseph developed slowly over time, no saint ever dislike St. Joseph. It is impossible to truly have love of God and neighbor in your heart – that is, be holy – if you disdain the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus Christ. To enter heaven, you need to resemble your spiritual father in his steadfast love. He will help you acquire the correct attire – virtues and holiness – needed to enter the wedding feast of heaven!

It is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being," the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also the earthly, and as in the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. – 1 Corinthians 15:45 – 49

## 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

