

KEYNOTE: The Foster Father of the King — Burning Devotion to Saint Joseph

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

Saint Joseph, father and guardian of virgins
to whose faithful keeping Christ Jesus, innocence itself,
and Mary, the virgin of virgins, were entrusted,
I pray and beseech you by that twofold and most precious charge,
by Jesus and Mary,
to save me from all uncleanness,
to keep my mind untainted, my heart pure, and my body chaste;
and to help me always to serve Jesus and Mary in perfect chastity. Amen.

KEYNOTE

- I. Saint Joseph: The Second Greatest Saint
 - A. Chosen by God to serve as
 1. The Foster Father of Jesus Christ
 2. The Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - B. Patron of the Universal Church (Pope Pius IX, December 8, 1870)
 1. Added to the Roman Canon by Pope Saint John XXIII on November 13, 1962
 2. Added to the other Eucharistic Prayers by Pope Francis on May 1, 2013
 3. Patron Saint also of: Families, Fathers, Workers, the Sick, a Happy Death
- II. Increasing Recognition of the Importance of Devotion to Saint Joseph in Our Time: “I am convinced that by reflection upon the way that Mary's spouse shared in the divine mystery, the Church - on the road towards the future with all of humanity - will be enabled to discover ever anew her own identity within this redemptive plan, which is founded on the mystery of the Incarnation. This is precisely the mystery in which Joseph of Nazareth ‘shared’ like no other human being except Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word” (Pope Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, December 15, 1989).
 - A. Joseph: A “Just Man,” a Holy and Loving Husband and Father
 1. Loving Obedience — Justice Crowned with Mercy: Joseph “being a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame, resolved to send her away quietly” (Mt. 1:19).
 2. Deep Interior Life: “But as Joseph considered this, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream” (Mt. 1:20).
 3. Heart of Devotion — Prompt Works of Love Flow from Loving Contemplation: “When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Mt. 1:24).
 - B. Some Reasons Why Our Church and Culture Especially Need Saint Joseph
 1. Understanding the Crown of Manhood: Service as Husband and Father
 - a. In the Life of a Celibate Man
 - b. In the Life of a Married Man
 2. The Primacy of the Interior Life and of Purity of Heart
 - a. Joseph's Three Dreams
 - b. Silence

- c. Three Holy Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph — One Love
 - 3. Work Motivated by Love of Family and Glorification of God
 - 4. Courage and Strength in Service of the Poor and Vulnerable
 - 5. Proper Vocational Focus — Leads us to God, and enables us to reflect God to others
 - a. God first
 - b. The Wife and Mother (Mary)
 - c. The Fruit of Love — the Child (Jesus)
 - 6. Simplicity and Fulfillment of Vocation
 - a. Religion (God First)
 - b. Family (Path to God and Means of Evangelization)
- C. New Evangelization — Joseph as a Missionary Disciple
 - 1. Bethlehem — Birth/Circumcision (naming Jesus)
 - 2. Egypt
 - 3. Presentation in the Temple
 - 4. Nazareth
 - 5. Finding in the Temple (Who the ultimate Father is)
 - 6. The Hidden Years: The Sanctification of Ordinary Life

QUESTIONS

- I. In my prayers and devotional life, do I tend to ignore Saint Joseph? Do you believe he is generally ignored by Christians, and if so, why?
- II. What about Saint Joseph do I like best? Do I say prayers to Saint Joseph, or do I practice any devotions to him?

MISSION

- I. Morning: Prayer to Saint Joseph
- II. Mental Prayer: 5/5/5 (children) or 10/10/10 (teen/adult)
 - A. Gospel of the Day or Any Passages from Scripture
 - B. Stories or Writings of Saints
 - C. Passages from Theological or Catechetical Writings
 - D. Particular Decades of the Rosary
 - E. Visual Images
- III. Examination of Conscience followed by an Act of Contrition: Did I Imitate Saint Joseph?
 - A. Did I leave room for silence today? Did I listen more than speak today? Did I listen and speak with charity and mercy in my heart or with judgment and malice in it? Did I gossip and tear down others, or seek to help and build up others?
 - B. If someone apparently did something wrong, did I hold this against this person or did I rather seek to do what is best for this person? Did I tend to size up people and dismiss them, or did I see them as having mysterious lives interwoven by God's design with mine, all for His glory and for the benefit of all concerned?
 - C. Was my work today motivated by a spirit of loving service to others and of glorification of God? Did I intentionally carry out my work as the means that God uses to complete His work of creation on earth?
 - D. Did I "treasure" Jesus and Mary in my heart throughout the day?