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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MONASTERY



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

SPRING 2013



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

**W**E PRESENT THIS SPECIAL ISSUE of our newsletter dedicated to St. Joseph, without whom our work would never have become reality. There does not exist any accomplishment for the greater Glory of God that has not borne the hallmarks of this great Protector of the Church. The expression of our profound gratitude to his patronage is not limited to devotions during the month of March: it is an unceasing practice of our Benedictine spiritual life, which is deeply imbued with the Roman Catholic culture of the love of paternal and monarchical authority.

May St. Joseph most Faithful and most Obedient be our unfailing source of light and strength, and the "answer of all answers" to our prayers in these troubled times; in our works may we too, like Our Saviour, be thought of as the sons of the Carpenter. May St. Joseph most Prudent and most Valiant, the Pillar of Family Life, protect and defend us in the battles to come. You are most especially included in our solemn consecration to St. Joseph on March 19th and again on May 1st.

Yours devotedly in St. Joseph,  
Fr. Cyprian



This beautiful Spanish Colonial painting depicts the return from Egypt, where St. Joseph leads the Holy Family on the joyful return to Nazareth after the flight into exile. If St. Joseph is indeed our protector during our earthly exile, he shall also be the sure guide of our return, for he is our guardian on the way that leads back to God in these times of confusion.

The role of St. Joseph is also the final part of the miraculous events at Fatima, for Our Lady herself foretold his coming, directing our attention to him. We therefore turn our eyes towards this great saint and consecrate ourselves to his patronage, knowing that he is the chosen instrument of God for our modern times; the realization of his importance will gain its fullness very soon.



## CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH AND THE HOLY FAMILY

**W**e cast ourselves at thy feet, O glorious St. Joseph, and sincerely venerate thee as the chaste spouse of the Mother of God, as the head of the Holy Family, as the virginal father of Jesus Christ, as the faithful preserver, depository and dispenser of the treasures of the Blessed Trinity. In thee we venerate the election of God the Father, who desired to share with thee His power over His eternal, only-begotten Son, who wished to be dependent upon thee and to owe His subsistence to the labor of thy hands. In thee we venerate the choice of God the Holy Ghost, who wished to entrust to thee His faithful spouse and to give thee to her as her guardian and companion through life.

**W**e likewise venerate thee on the privilege of being permitted to carry Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in thine arms, to press Him to thy bosom, to embrace Him lovingly and to bedew Him with thy tears, during the sweet caresses with which He so often favored thee. Who can comprehend the overwhelming treasures of light, wisdom and grace, which thou didst acquire during the time thou hast lived in the company of Jesus and Mary!

**P**enetrated with reverence and love at the sight of thy greatness and sanctity, we offer and consecrate to thy honor our hearts; we give ourselves to thee, our souls and bodies, our property, lives and health; our sufferings, crosses and the interests of our souls. After Jesus and Mary, thou shalt be our lord and master. This day we irrevocably adopt thee for our model. Grant that we may experience the effects of the high esteem in which thou art held by God, and thy tender love towards those who have commended themselves to thy keeping.

**O**btain for us a sincere and lasting conversion, with all the graces we need to fulfill the adorable will of God. Obtain for us thy spirit of interior recollection, thy fidelity to grace, thy intimate union with God, thy profound humility, thy patience in trials. Enkindle our hearts with a vehement love for Jesus and enable us to serve Him with all thy devotedness and fidelity. Aid our inability to venerate Mary as our advocate, to honor her as our Queen and to love her as our Mother. After thine example, may we accomplish all our actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

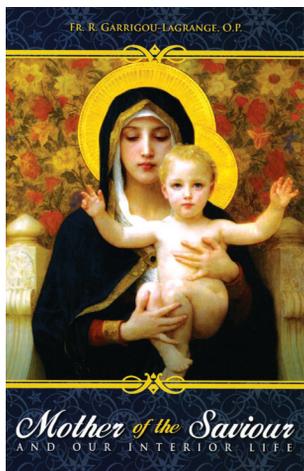
**T**ake under thy protection, O great Saint, the pious souls who, after thine example, endeavor to imitate Jesus and Mary.

**F**inally, O glorious Saint, through the singular grace of thy blissful death in the Arms of Jesus and Mary, grant we beseech thee, to obtain for us a similar death, with perfect resignation to the will of God, and the assistance of Jesus and Mary. Amen.



## FAVORITE READINGS ON ST. JOSEPH

### FROM THE MONASTERY BOOKSTORE



His faith cannot be shaken in spite of the darkness of unexpected mystery... He believes firmly in the simplicity of his heart. By his simplicity, and his humility, he reaches up to divine heights...

His confidence in God was made manifest in trials. Persecution came soon after the birth of Jesus. Herod tried to put Him to death, and the head of the Holy Family was forced to conceal the child, to take refuge in a distant country where he was unknown and where he did not know how he could earn a living. But he set out on the journey, relying on divine providence.

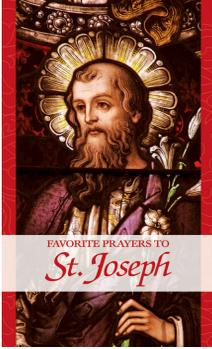
His love of God and of souls did not cease to increase during the hidden life of Nazareth; the Incarnate Word is an unfailing source of graces, ever newer and more choice, for docile souls who oppose no obstacle to His action. We have already said, when speaking of Mary, that the progress of such docile souls is one of uniform acceleration, that is to say, they are carried all the more powerfully to God the nearer they approach Him. This law of spiritual gravitation was realized in Joseph; his charity grew up to the time of his death, and the progress of his latter years was more rapid than that of his earlier years, for finding himself nearer to God he was more powerfully drawn by Him.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S ROLE IN THE SANCTIFICATION OF SOULS

The humble carpenter is glorified in heaven to the extent to which he was hidden on earth. He to whom the Incarnate Word was subject has now an incomparable power of intercession. Leo XIII, in his encyclical *Quamquam pluries* finds in St. Joseph's mission in regard to the Holy Family "the reason he is Patron and Protector of the universal Church ... Just as Mary, Mother of the Saviour, is spiritual mother of all Christians ... Joseph looks on all Christians as having been confided to himself ...He is the defender of the Holy Church which is truly the house of God and the kingdom of God on earth."

What strikes us most in St. Joseph's role till the end of time is that there are united in it in an admirable way apparently opposed prerogatives. His influence is universal over the whole Church, and yet, like Divine Providence, it descends to the least details; "model of workmen" he takes an interest in everyone who turns to him. He is the most universal of the saints, and yet he helps a poor man in his ordinary daily needs. His action is primarily of the spiritual order, and yet it extends to temporal affairs; he is the support of families and of communities, the hope of the sick. He watches over Christians of all conditions, of all countries, over fathers of families, husbands and wives, consecrated virgins; over the rich to inspire them to distribute their possessions charitably, and over the poor so as to help them. He is attentive to the needs of great sinners and of souls advanced in virtue. He is the patron of a happy death, of lost causes; he is terrible to the demon, and St. Teresa tells us that he is the guide of interior souls in the ways of prayer. His influence is a wonderful reflection of that of Divine Wisdom which "reacheth from end to end mightily, and ordereth all things sweetly." (Wisdom viii, 1).

He has been clothed and will remain clothed in Divine splendor. Grace has become fruitful in him and he will share its fruit with all who strive to attain to the life which is "hid with Christ in God." (Col. iii, 3),



## A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION IN LIFE

O great St. Joseph, so docile to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, obtain for me the grace to know what state of life Divine Providence destines for me. Do not allow me to be deceived with regard to so important a choice, upon which depends my happiness in this world, and even my eternal salvation. Obtain for me that, being enlightened to know the Divine Will and being faithful in accomplishing it, I may embrace that state of life which God has destined for me and which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.

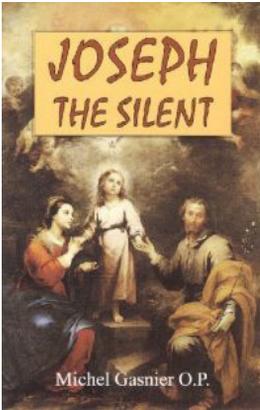
### PRAYER IN A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

O glorious St. Joseph, thou who hast power to render possible even things which are considered impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress. Take this important and difficult affair under thy particular protection, that it may end happily. (Name your request.)

O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in thee. Let it not be said that we would invoke thee in vain; and since thou art so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that thy goodness equals thy power. Amen.

St. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for us.

From: *Favorite Prayers to St. Joseph*



## ST. JOSEPH'S FATHERHOOD

Mary, deeply enlightened on the mystery of the Incarnation, thought it right that Joseph should in all sincerity be called "father of Jesus"

St. John Chrysostom says: "God gave Joseph all that belongs to a father without the loss of virginity." The meaning is that Joseph had no share in the natural conception of Jesus, but with that one exception his fatherhood embraced all the privileges, all the duties, all the rights of an ordinary father in his home, so that, putting aside the usual formulas of "putative father" or "foster father", the title that best fits him is that of *virgin Father of Jesus* which is used in the prayer

approved by St. Pius X.

To call Jesus "his son", and to consider him so, was Joseph's right. The Fathers of the Church never hesitate to liken his presence near Jesus to "the shadow of God the Father". And because the true Father of Jesus, He Who begot Him from all eternity according to His divine nature, entrusted to Joseph the task of being in some manner His vicar, He endowed him in some way with the infinite love He Himself bore His Son. "You will give Him the name Jesus", the angel had said. In other words: This child has no father but God. But to you, God transmits his own rights. You will be a father to Him. You will have a truly fatherly love for Him, and you will exercise all the rights of a father over Him.

From: *Joseph the Silent* by Fr. Gasnier, O.P.



## How to help the Monastery

The growth of our monastic community, the construction work required for our present expansion and our ongoing apostolates depend entirely on charitable and goodwill donations.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery

142 Joseph Blane Road

Silver City, New Mexico 88061

All donations are tax-deductible

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