

# St. Joseph

**Model and Patron  
of those who love  
the Sacred Heart!**





# INTRODUCTION



## Objectives

- 1. To appreciate the role of St. Joseph in the life of Jesus.**
- 2. To appreciate the devotion to St. Joseph in the history and tradition of the Church.**
- 3. To appreciate the place of St. Joseph in the Spirituality of the Heart.**



## In Sacred Scriptures

**The Letters of Paul do not mention him, nor make any reference about him.**

**Among the Four Gospels, he is absent in Mark and in John.**

**Only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke make him part of the drama of Jesus' life.**



Matt 1:16

**“Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom Jesus, called the Messiah, was born.”**

# Genealogy of Jesus

**For the Jews, genealogy was very important in order to preserve the memory of their ancestors.**

“The Jesus story is intrinsically linked to the history of a people, Israel.”

A history full of hopes and promises, of fragility and sin – a short history which represents and on which depends the whole of human history.

“Through an artificial account of generations, Matthew is able to build a history that ends with a concrete person: Jesus, called the Messiah.”

In him the history of humanity and the history of the promises of God, represented by David and Abraham converged.

“This is not an abstract history but a real and concrete one.”

The history of the good and the bad, of successes and failures, of pain and suffering found in the human family: patriarchs, wise men and women, prophets, slaves, exiles, migrants, prostitutes, workers, good and bad governments.

Who can feel excluded from this family of Jesus? Who wouldn't like to belong to this family that is so full of promise where God became flesh and a member of our human family?



**And the significance of the intentional formula: Joseph the husband of Mary, not Mary the wife of Joseph!**

# Matt 1:18-25

What was Joseph's reaction to Mary's pregnancy that was not his own doing? He was a just man, he wanted to abandon her secretly and quietly.

But maybe Matt wanted us to understand the mixed emotions of the heart of Joseph before such a mysterious event.

**Dream and Fulfilment: Old Testament Promise Now Realized**

Joseph discerned his vocation and accepted it: to serve the mystery of salvation. Now he has become a legal father to Jesus. His mission has begun: to hide and protect the mystery of Emmanuel until its completion.



## Flight to Egypt and Back, Nazareth of Galilee

History, legend and theology converge in this tiny episode which concludes Matt's account of the childhood of Jesus.

Herod's cruelty was well known.

This evokes the experience of Moses, saved from death from the hands of the tyrant. The killing of the innocents brings back to memory the extermination of Israelite children, the wailing of Rachel.



The return from Egypt was in obedience to God: "From Egypt I called my son." (Hos 11:1)

**Jesus is the new Moses, a New Exodus is taking place, a New Definitive Liberation is happening, from the periphery.**

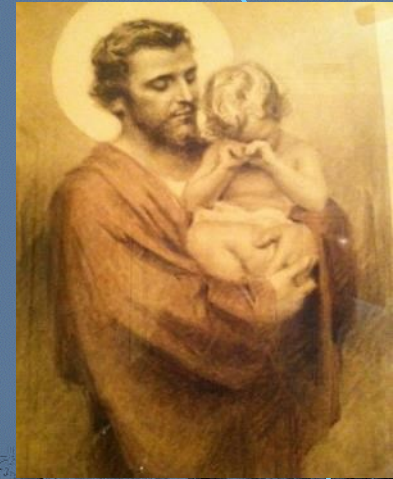
**Galilee, a most pagan province, hotbed of revolution.**

**Nazareth, his place of trade, is polemical: Can anything good ever come out of Nazareth.**

**Joseph has made all these possible.**



# The Silence of Joseph: Protector of the Silence of God.



“The virginity of Mary, her child-bearing, and the death of the Lord were hidden from the prince of this world – three resounding mysteries wrought in the silence of God.”

[St. Ignatius of Antioch († 107)]



# Luke 1:26-27

After establishing the temporal and spatial coordinates, Luke now turns to the socio-anthropological dimension: a young Mary, in contrast to the old married Elizabeth, is betrothed to a man Joseph.

Betrothal was a mutual agreement of parents; but the betrothed did not live together while mutually observing their fidelity to each other.

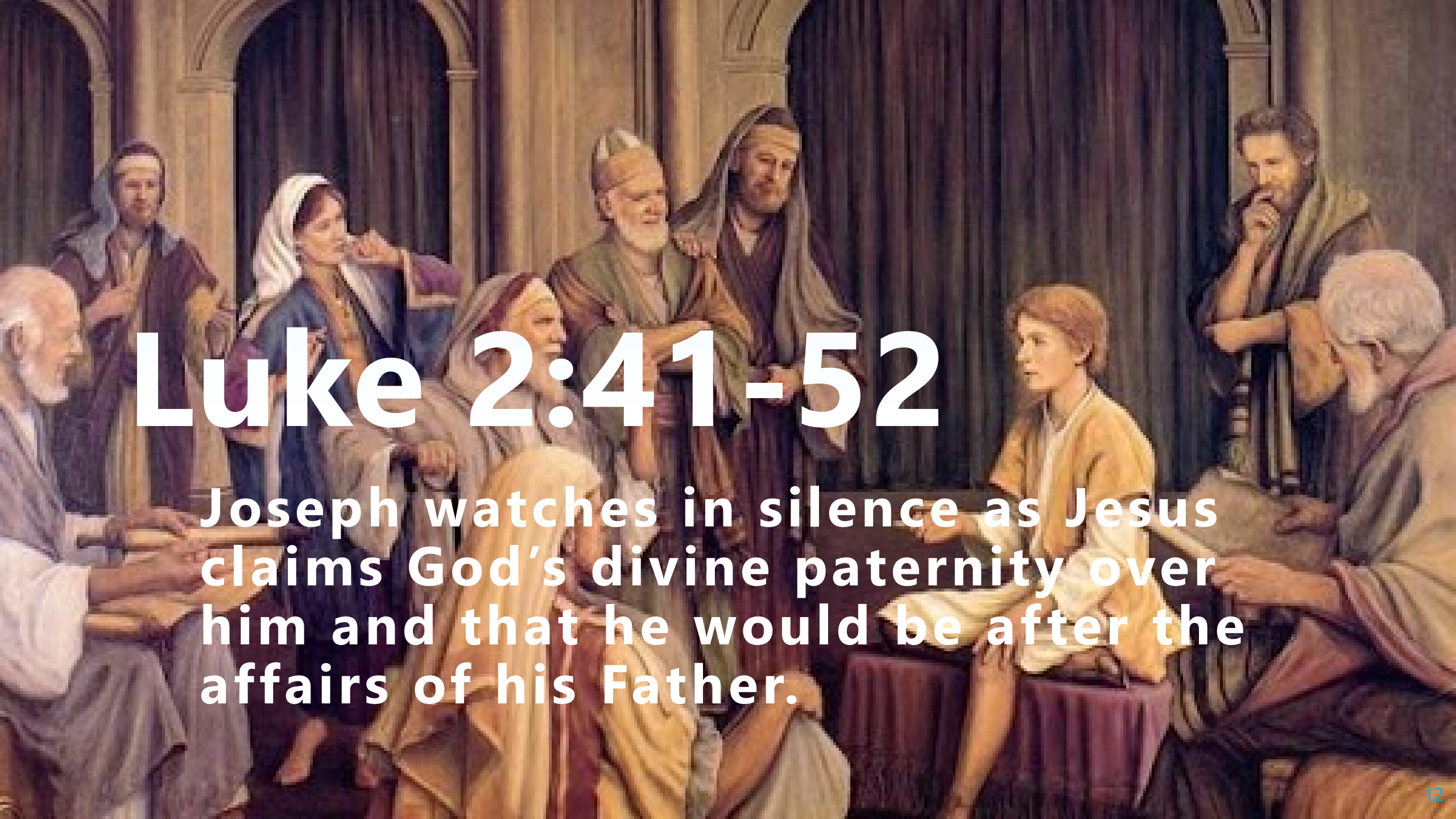
Linking Joseph to David finalizes the identity of Jesus: the only Messiah and there is no other.



# Luke 2:16 - 20







# Luke 2:41-52

Joseph watches in silence as Jesus claims God's divine paternity over him and that he would be after the affairs of his Father.



## St. Joseph the Worker, the Carpenter.

Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 4:22;  
John 6:42

Jesus was not accepted because of the simplicity and ordinariness of his origin and trade. He was trained as a carpenter, a worker, after the trade of his known father, Joseph. This rejection is an invitation to prophetic solidarity with the poor, the workers, the rejected and oppressed in society.



## Guide Questions:

How did you see St. Joseph before?

What new insights and appreciation do you have now from the biblical presentation of St. Joseph?



# Devotion to St. Joseph



What the legends say about Joseph:  
The fear of Joseph's being a virginal husband to Mary  
and father of Jesus by spiritual ties might endanger  
The dogma of Mary's Perpetual Virginity and  
Jesus' virginal birth by Mary.

**1**

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Joseph must be made so old in order that his sexual powers would be nil.

**2**

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He was depicted as widower with 6 children to explain Gospel references to "brethren of Jesus".

**3**

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Joseph was miraculously selected as depicted by his blooming staff.

**4**

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But the Gospel talked of the betrothal of Mary and Joseph, a fact that was publicly known.

**5**

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The lily as an emblem of purity replaced the staff of Joseph only in 1303-1306 from a painting of Giotto in Padua.



The first known independent commemoration of St. Joseph:

## 8<sup>th</sup> Century Martyrology

St. Joseph was named "Spouse of Mary"

March 20.

From the Benedictine Monastery at Reichenau, March 19 was declared the death of St. Joseph.





# Embryonic Form of Independent Devotion to St. Joseph

## Middle Ages

The faithful's growing desire to know more of Jesus and Mary led to the recognition of St. Joseph.

1324: the Servites observed March 19 as his feast, not a commemoration. Probably the Franciscans also did.

## The Spread of the Devotion to St. Joseph

December 8, 1870:  
Pope Pius IX  
proclaimed St. Joseph  
the Patron of the  
Universal Church.

1889: Pope Leo XIII,  
*Quamquam Pluries*,  
exhorted workers to  
imitate St. Joseph  
rather than follow  
"seditious men".



Franciscans Peter John  
Olivi (1298) and  
Ubertino de Casale  
John Gerson (1429)  
St. Bernardine of Siena  
(1444)

St. Teresa of Avila  
(1582)

Celebrated in Rome by  
Sixtus IV (1479)

The Dominican Isidore  
de Isolani published  
the first scholarly  
theological essay  
(1522)



1920: Pope Benedict XV called on St. Joseph to protect the laborers from socialism.

1937: Pope Pius XI, *Divini Redemptoris*, placed the vast campaign against Communism under the standard of St. Joseph, the mighty Protector.

1955: Pope Pius XII established the Feast of Joseph the Worker on May 1, the traditional communist celebration of the workers.





November 13, 1962: St. Pope John XXIII decreed that effective December 8 that year, the name of St. Joseph be inserted in the *Communicantes*.

1989: Pope St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Custos*, an apostolic exhortation on the role of St. Joseph in the life of Christ and in the life of the Church.

2020: Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph





**Guide Questions:**

**What insights do you have on the devotion to St. Joseph from its historical development?**

# Evolution and Development of the Theology of St. Joseph: Josephology as the study of St. Joseph's dignity, mission and prerogatives.

## 1

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Virginal Marriage to the Mother of God. Mary's Parenthood was shared with Joseph. Jesus belonged to the family of Mary and Joseph.

## 2

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St. Augustine: the doctrine of the Fatherhood of Joseph: "Every good marriage was fulfilled in the parents of Christ: offspring, loyalty and sacrament.

## 3

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"Since conjugal intercourse did not take place, the origin of the Child was not in the physical but in the moral order."

## 4

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Joseph receives the second preeminence in the liturgy second only to Mary.

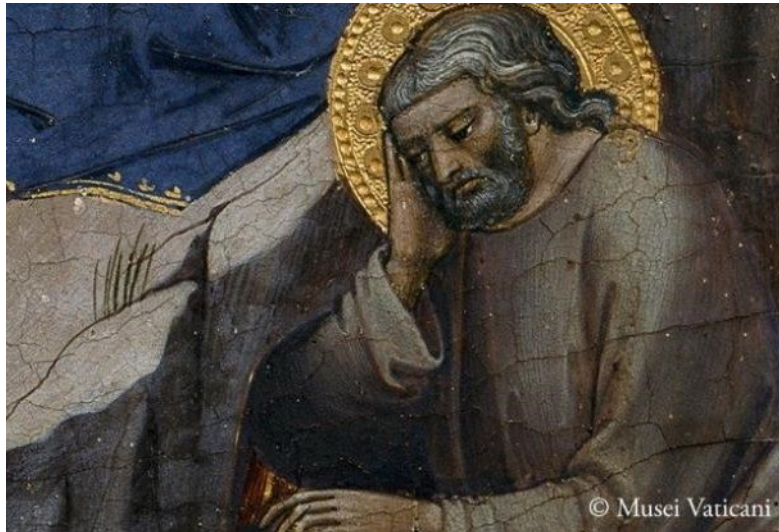
## 5

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St. Joseph: Patron of the Universal Church, of families, of interior life, of the poor, and patron of the workers.

# Year of St. Joseph

**Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter “Patris Corde” recalls the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.**

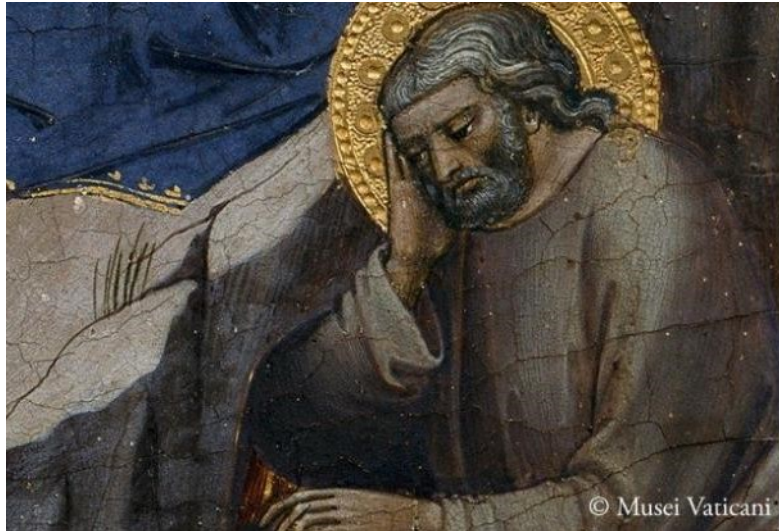


**In Joseph, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized.. Confession and Reconciliation.**

**Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.**

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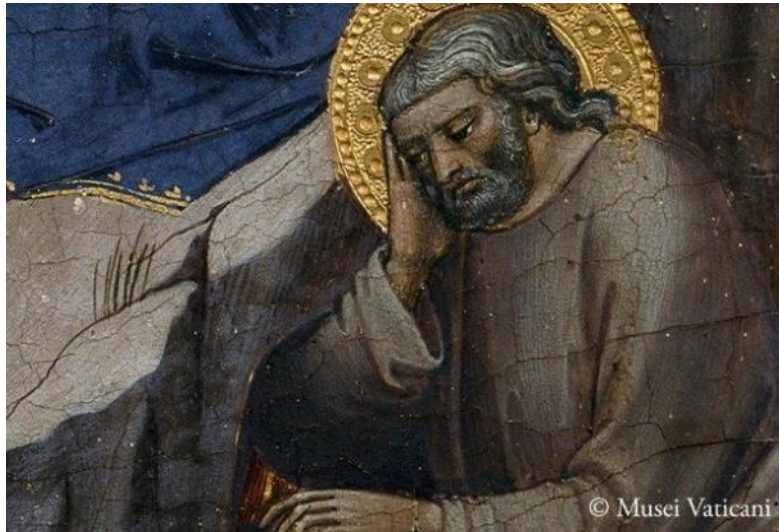
**St. Joseph possesses “the creative courage” which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.**

**St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor.**



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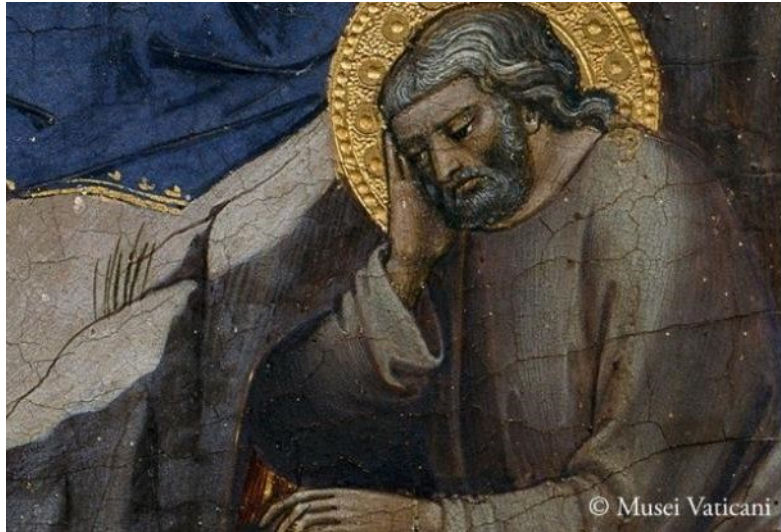


“A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” Pope Francis appeals in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “There is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.

**Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!**

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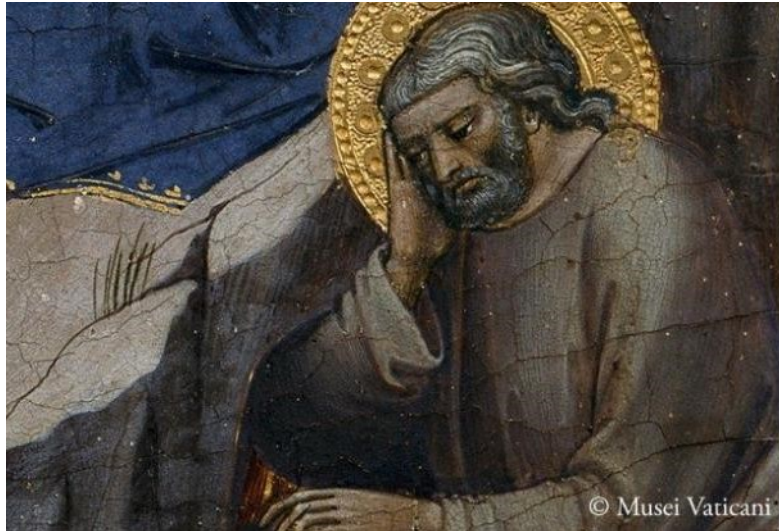


“Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.”

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

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Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants";

We need St. Joseph today in a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."



**St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.**



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.

Amen.



## Guide Questions:

What insights in the Theology of St. Joseph resonate with you as a members of the Chevalier Family?

**“Anyone who is involved with the love of the heart of Jesus has to carry the sign of contradiction.”**

(Little Annals of the Society, 29)

**Isn't he the son of Joseph, the carpenter?**



**“The poor are  
privileged friends of  
the heart of Jesus.  
Can we remain  
insensitive to their  
spiritual and material  
poverty? We should  
see in them the living  
image of Jesus  
Christ.”**

**(Chevalier, Meditations I, 73)**

**“Let us never  
imitate that  
hardness of heart  
of those in the  
Gospel who passed  
by the wounded  
man. Let us follow  
the example of the  
Good Samaritan.”**

**(Chevalier, Meditations II, 259)**

**“The love of  
his heart  
inspired Jesus  
to heal the  
many sick  
people who  
appealed to  
his power.”**

**(Chevalier, Le Sacre-Coeur, 9)**



**“During his earthly life Jesus poured out all the tenderness of his heart on the little ones and on the poor; on those who suffer and on sinners.”**

**(Chevalier, Meditations II, 32 ff).**

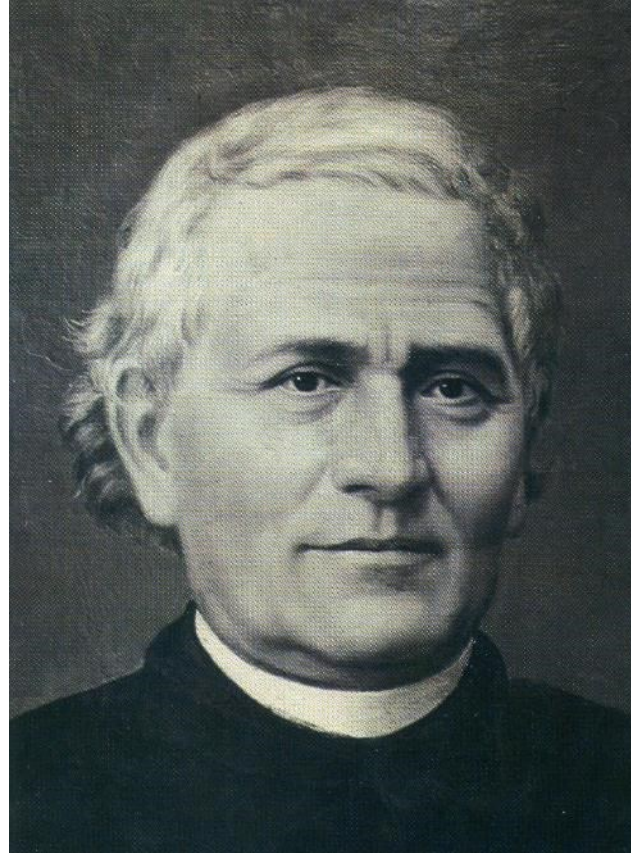
**“Let us not close our hearts to pity when along life’s road we come across a person wounded by sorrow, bruised by ingratitude, calumny or sin.”**

**(Chevalier, Meditations II, 259).**

**March 19:**

**“The Church has made St. Joseph the protector of the great Christian Family. We too should have a great confidence in him.”**

**Jules Chevalier,  
Meditations I, p. 723 ff.**



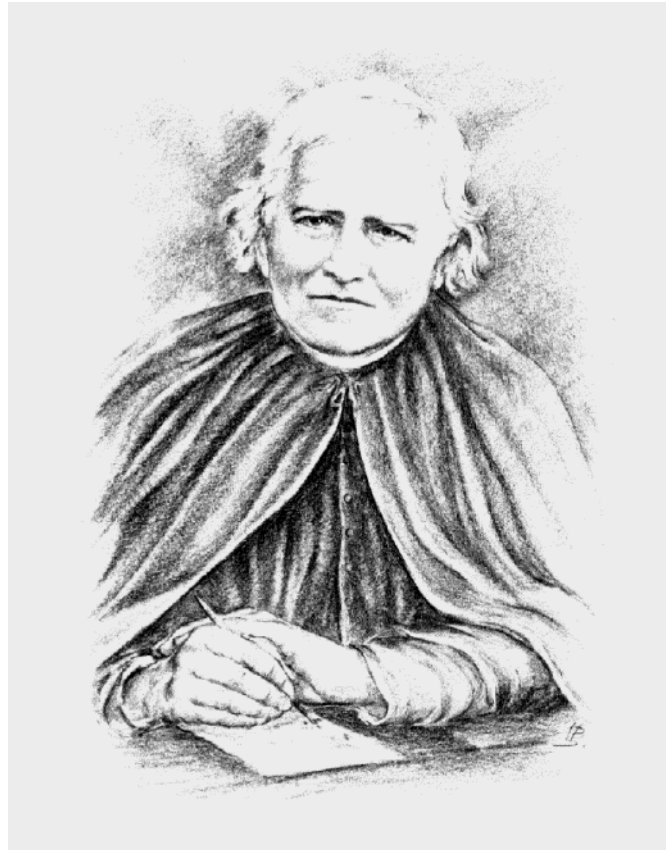
**May 1:**

**St. Joseph was the friend and guardian of Jesus and Mary. Let us place all our houses, now and in the future, under the outstanding care of St. Joseph.**

*Constitutiones MSC, 1877*

MSC Constitution, 19:

“We also honour Saint Joseph and place ourselves under the protection of that faithful and just man, who was so closely united in love with Jesus and Mary.”



**St. Joseph, Model and Patron of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus,**

**Pray for us.**





**What is the place of St. Joseph in the Spirituality of the Heart?**

**Do you have a devotion to St. Joseph, personally and as a community?**

**How are you expressing it?**

**ST. JOSEPH, PRAY  
FOR US!**

THANK YOU