



Ite Ad Joseph...

Patron of workers, of virgins, of spouses, of the sick and the dying, of contemplatives, protector of Jesus and Mary, of fathers and the family, of priests and of the Church.

...the Saint for Every Cause!

“My child, the privilege of being chosen by God to be the Virgin-Father of His Son was mine alone, and no honor, excluding that bestowed upon my Holy Spouse, was ever, or will ever, be as sublime or as high as this. The Holy Trinity desires thus to honor me that in my unique fatherhood all fatherhood might be blessed.”

“Dear child, I was king in the little home of Nazareth, for I sheltered within it the Prince of Peace and the Queen of Heaven. To me they looked for protection and sustenance, and I did not fail them. I received from them the deepest love and reverence, for in me they saw Him Whose place I took over them. So the head of the family must be loved, obeyed, and respected, and in return be a true father and protector to those under his care. In honoring in a special way my fatherhood, you also honor Jesus and Mary. The Divine Trinity has placed into our keeping the peace of the world.” [What a clear confirmation of St. Joseph’s patronage of spouses, virgins, fathers, and the family!] (Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA*, Tiffin, OH, Pgs. 28-30.)

Sacred Scripture records no words spoken by Joseph, but the angel told him his duty was to take Mary, his betrothed, into his home and care for her and her child, that he must name the Child Jesus, for He is the Savior of the world. By that humble obedience to the Will of God, St. Joseph became Guardian of the Redeemer and of the Mother of the Redeemer and legal father, a true father to Jesus. He thus confirmed God’s ordination of him to the honor of being the second greatest **human person** in the whole world, second only to Mary, his holy Spouse and Mother of Jesus. These three, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, compose the **Hypostatic Order of Grace** that brought us our Redeemer. They co-operated as no others, as the **trinity on earth**, in the work of mankind’s redemption. We will never tire repeating this fact, as ordained by God, confirming both Mary and Joseph’s message in that of Our Lady of America that they are co-redeemers with Christ, not as equals but as maternal and paternal mediators, the two single **most intimate participants and compassionate human beings to the sufferings of Christ**.

Maria Cecelia Baij, O.S.B., *LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH*, gives these further insights into the everyday life of Mary and Joseph. After their espousals in Jerusalem, Mary assured Joseph that it was God’s Will they go to a small house in Nazareth that had been their mutual birthplace, and that they live in poverty, for they would be blessed with greater spiritual benefits. Neighbors welcomed them with gifts of food, which Mary later repaid with the work of her hands. God’s will led Joseph to set up his carpenter shop, but

sometimes Joseph would be without funds, as customers did not always pay him. Maria Cecelia says, at these times, Joseph and Mary retreated to prayer and would enter into ecstasy. Thereafter, it would seem as if they had feasted on the choicest foods. Sometimes Joseph even gave their bare necessities to the poor. Jesus loved spending time with his father in the carpenter shop and would come to be known as the son of a carpenter from Nazareth. Customers, recognizing something extraordinary about Jesus, often ridiculed Joseph for letting him do manual work in the shop instead of becoming a doctor of the law. Manual labor was looked on as menial and for slaves, not for the cultured and the free. O what dignity Jesus, Mary and Joseph gave to the work they did for love of God and for each other! How fitting, that in 1955, Pope Pius XII established the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1 to counteract the May Day communist observance of the international day of the worker. Communism exploits the worker. This feast declared the Christian social principle of the priority of labor and the person over production and profit. Work is seen as an aspect of the person by which he expresses himself and shares in the creativity of God in making new things in the world.

Jim Cavizel, who played Jesus in the movie **“The Passion”**, said it well: **“The more you understand the Passion of Jesus, the more you understand the compassion of Mary.” The same goes for the compassion of Joseph!** The mystic Maria Cecelia Baij also states what St. Joseph told Sister Mildred Neuzil, that he knew ahead of time the cruel death and tortures Jesus would have to suffer for our salvation. He was familiar with the Romans’ methods of crucifixion and utter stripping away of every vestige of human dignity and their expertise in torture. **“Through compassion for the sufferings of Jesus and Mary, I cooperated, as no other, in the salvation of the world.” (Pg.13.)** So many illuminations were given to Joseph; so many conversations with Jesus and Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. So great was his understanding of the torture awaiting Jesus that Joseph asked Mary to beg God not to ask him to witness the crucifixion of his Son. He would die of sorrow. He marveled at the unfathomable grace given to Mary to walk with Jesus all the way to Calvary. He anguished as well on not being there with them, but Mary assured Joseph God willed it that way. How often Joseph had seen the young Jesus lay upon the wooden cross that was the first thing Jesus made in the carpenter shop, as if anticipating his death on the cross. God willed that Joseph, who stood in His place over Jesus during His hidden life, be absent from Jesus’ crucifixion, for now it is the heavenly Father who must make His Presence known and reveal the divinity of His Beloved Son to all. It is the heavenly Father who ordained and receives that Perfect Atonement for all sin for all time.



It was on his feast day, March 19, 1958, that St. Joseph spoke these words to Sister Mildred Neuzil. **“Fatherhood is from God, and it must take once again its rightful place among men.” (Diary, Pg. 27.) [On March 30 he again appeared and said:] “I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His Mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love**

I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time and each time I held Him in my arms. Those who honor me in this way will be consoled by my presence at their death, and I myself will conduct them safely into the presence of Jesus and Mary. (Diary, Pgs. 31-32.)

Here again we see why St. Joseph is declared the Protector of the Church and of the family, as well as protector of the sick and the dying, of virgins and spouses. In his youth he would often spend time with the dying. Mother Cecelia tells how God relayed to him the condition of the souls who were sick and which ones were not in the state of grace, and how he would pray for the latter through the night until he was assured the person received the grace of repentance. As for himself, who could have had a more blessed death than Joseph, to die in the arms of Jesus and Mary?

Sister Mildred also described a unique and marvelous vision of the glorious St. Joseph as shown in this image as he stands, hands raised as a priest at Mass, for he was first to consecrate the firstborn to the Lord and first to witness the shedding of Jesus' blood. His hair and forked beard were dark brown, as were his eyes. He had a white robe that went to his ankles and a cloak that draped over each arm and was as long as the robe. The cloak appeared to be brown or purple or a blend of both. His belt and sandals were gold. His appearance was youthful, combined with a rare maturity and strength. The lines of his face were strong but had a gentle serenity. His pure heart was visible, and the Holy Spirit as a dove hovered above his head.



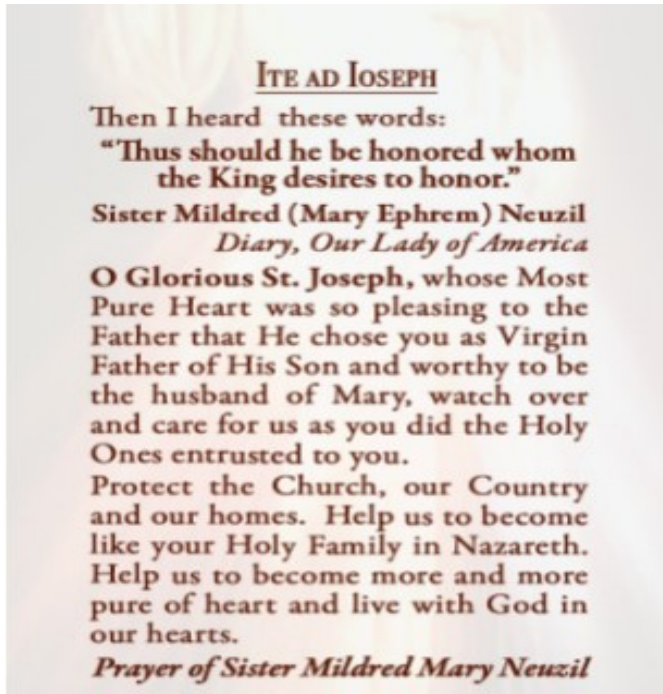
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around the globe and forming the halo of St. Joseph is a Prayer to St. Joseph written by Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil.]

“Standing sideways, facing each other, were angels, one on the right, the other on the left. Each carried what appeared to be a small pillow in a satin covering, the pillow on the right bearing a gold crown, the one on the left, a gold scepter. The angels were all white, even their faces and hair. It was a beautiful whiteness that reminded me of the stainlessness of heaven.” [Then St. Joseph said:] “Thus should he be honored whom the King desires to honor.” (Diary, Pg. 30.) NO ONE CAN HONOR ST. JOSEPH MORE THAN GOD, JESUS AND MARY HAVE! [The prayer

Imagine how many times Jesus, Mary and Joseph must have broken bread together in the sanctuary of their home on the altar of their dining table. What prefiguring of Christ's establishment of the Holy Eucharist whereby Jesus would remain with us after His death and Resurrection until the end of time and into eternity, the Supper of the Lamb. St. Peter Julian Eymard, best known for his devotion to the Eucharist, wrote a book with a meditation for every day of March, the month of St. Joseph, showing the relationship of St. Joseph to the Eucharist. He lived in adoration of the Real Presence in the temple of his little home. St. Peter Julian Eymard calls St. Joseph the patron and model of a life of

adoration. How often he and Mary prostrated themselves before Jesus in their home, honoring Him as their Messiah.



Since the feast of St. Joseph, the Worker falls on the first day of May, the month of Mary, it is fitting we honor them both. In preparation for Mother's Day on May 9th, we are inviting all of you to join us again in making the novena to Our Lady of America which was written by Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil. It can be printed from the following link by hitting "control" and double clicking on the link, or you can go to the website www.ourladyofamerica.com What's New, January 2021.

<https://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/ANovenatoOurLadyofAmerica.pdf>

We are also attaching the link to the copyrighted song, "Our Lady of America," which may be downloaded for private, non-commercial use only. Put the cursor at the end of the song link and hit Enter to open the page, then click on the link for the song at the bottom, or go to www.ourladyofamerica.com and click on Media/Song.

<https://www.ourladyofamerica.com/song.php>

***The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor
of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not.
She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for
an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body...
The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in
God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven.
Only a human mother can.
Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature;
God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation...
What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?***

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

And the mother closest to God of all mothers is Mary!

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