

St. Joseph the Worker

Model for Humankind's Distinct Gift to Subdue the Earth As Head of the Holy Family!

THROUGH WORK man must earn his daily bread and contribute to the continual advance of science and technology and, above all, to elevating unceasingly the cultural and moral level of the society within which he lives in community with those who belong to the same family. And work means any activity by man, whether manual or intellectual,



The Earthly Trinity at work

whatever its nature or circumstances; it means any human activity that can and must be recognized as work, in the midst of all the many activities of which man is capable and to which he is predisposed by his very nature, by virtue of humanity itself. Man is made to be in the visible universe an image and likeness of God himself, and he is placed in it in order to subdue the earth. From the beginning therefore he is *called to work*. *Work is one of the characteristics that distinguish man from the rest of creatures, whose activity for sustaining their lives cannot be called work. Only man is capable of work, and only man works, at the same time by work occupying his existence on earth. Thus work bears a particular mark of man and of humanity, the mark of a person operating within a community of persons. And this mark decides its interior characteristics; in a sense it constitutes its very nature.*

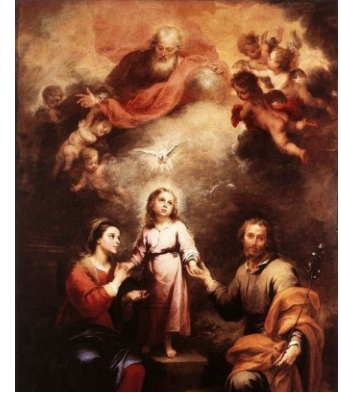
(Pope St. John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*, September 14, 1981.)

Work is definitively part of human life and gives sustenance, not only to the individual person, but to the entire human family. It should reflect the incomparable worth and dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God. Work gives humankind bread to eat, “***not only the daily bread by which his body keeps alive but also the bread of science and progress, civilization and culture.***” Since work will necessarily be carried out in the context of relationships with others and the changes that progress brings about, it will always carry a measure of tension, conflict and crisis demanding constant supervision and evaluation to keep it in line with the human person’s God-given dignity and intrinsic rights and Church teachings on social justice. The Church’s conviction that work is a fundamental dimension of man’s existence on earth is a conviction of the intellect and a conviction of faith, based on sound reason and the Word of God as recorded in the Book of Genesis. Humankind was created with a transcendent destiny, one that far exceeds his material existence or his existence in time. (*Laborem Exercens.*)

When man, who had been created "in the image of God.... male and female", hears the words: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it", even though these words do not refer directly and explicitly to work, beyond any doubt they indirectly indicate it as an activity for man to carry out in the world. Indeed, they show its very deepest essence. Man is the image of God partly through the mandate received from his Creator to subdue, to dominate, the earth. In carrying out this mandate, man, every human being, reflects the very action of the Creator of the universe. (#4, *Laborem Exercens.*)

By work we share in the creative work of God Himself, and in our own redemption by uniting all we do with the saving action of our Redeemer, and in the work of the sanctification of souls, as we do it for love of God and others, in union with the infinite benevolence and munificence of the Divine Will.

After Jesus and Mary, there is no holier person on earth to model for us the magnificence of this duty and privilege of participating in the work of the Most Holy Trinity than St. Joseph, ordained from eternity to stand in place of the Heavenly Father over his most beloved Son on earth as guardian and provider for Jesus and His most Holy Mother, the most beloved daughter of the Father, Queen of Heaven and earth. In St. Joseph's own words:



*The Heavenly Trinity
at work*

“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. The imitation of the Holy Family, my child, of the virtues we practiced in our little home at Nazareth is the way for all souls to that peace which comes from God alone and which none other can give.”

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Page 29.)

Here we have God's peace plan for the world, imitating that most perfect family on earth that mirrors the family life of the Trinity Itself, always in harmony with divine law and the laws of nature, knowing the peace that comes from that perfect union with the Divine Will and living in the presence of the Indwelling Triune God. Our Lady herself called their little home in Nazareth God's paradise on earth, and said, we, too, can be another paradise on earth if we imitate the simple virtues that she and St. Joseph practiced in their humble life. As St. John Paul II said, work, no matter what it is, how lowly or humble it seems, carries such enormous dignity when done with this understanding and with love for those we serve, God and our neighbor, whoever that be.

We are all familiar with the feast of St. Joseph on March 19th commemorating his death, according to Tradition. It is most fitting that his feast day should be in March, close to the feast of the Annunciation, for Joseph, as Virgin-Spouse of Mary and Virgin-Father of Jesus, is intimately tied to that wondrous day that marks the beginning of our Redemption and necessitates an essential collaboration of Mary and Joseph with Christ's work in redeeming mankind and restoring the human family. All this is a crucial part of understanding the message of Our Lady of America and the role of the Hypostatic Order of Grace in the marriage of the earthly trinity with the Heavenly One. Already in the 4th century a feast honoring St. Joseph was confirmed in Egypt. The Orthodox Church honors him as the “Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed” on the Sunday after the Nativity or on December 26th. Here in the West, his feast day on March 19th was not fixed until the 15th century. In 1621 Pope Gregory XV extended a feast of St. Joseph to the entire Church. Already patron of Mexico, Canada and Belgium, St. Joseph was elevated even more when Pope Pius IX declared him the “Patron of the Universal Church” in 1870.

Ref: <https://aleteia.org/2019/03/18/why-is-the-feast-of-st-joseph-on-march-19/>

Not only is St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church, but he is patron of the domestic church, the family, of spouses and virgins, of children, born and unborn, of fathers and mothers, expectant mothers, home sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, travelers, immigrants, workers in every walk of life, and of a happy death. As St. Teresa of Avila would say, he is a patron for every need we might have, and he never fails. It was in 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the feast of St. Joseph the Worker to counter the communists' May Day International Celebration of Workers. Let us call on St. Joseph for every work we do and for every need we have. As the Terror of Demons in our world so full of them, let us call upon him to deliver us, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from every evil known to man. And most of all, pray with us as we ask St. Joseph to guard and protect the cause of Our Lady of America and to bring it to fruition as God wills, for the spiritual purification and renewal of America, of the Church and of all the world, and for the eternal salvation of souls! The most important work St. Joseph has done was to be at the service of God's Will in His plan for our salvation. The most important work any of us can do is to, likewise, be at the service of God's plan for the salvation of all.

Prayer for the Spirit of Work: God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Novena Prayer: Good Saint Joseph, ever watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ, keep us free from the blight of error and corruption, and be our ally in the conflict with the powers of darkness. As of old you rescued the child Jesus from the plots of Herod, so now defend the universal Church from all harm. Keep us one and all under your continual protection, so that by your help and example, we may lead a holy life, die a happy death, and come to possess eternal life in heaven. Amen.



<https://www.stjosephshrine.org/Prayers-to-St--Joseph-For-Workers>

Thus should he be honored whom the King desires to honor!

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