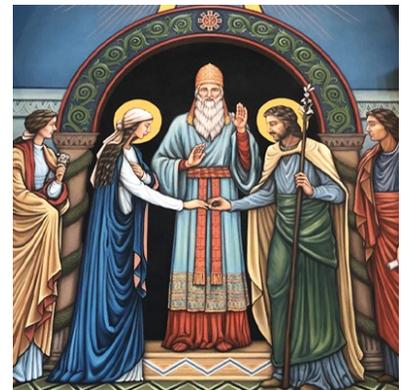




The Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph *Eternally Joined to the Heart of the Redeemer in the Work of Redemption* **God So Decreed It!**

December 8th marks the close of The Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, " *Patris corde*" ("With a Father's Heart"), to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's Declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. How significant that His Holiness connected the role of St. Joseph as Patron of the Church with the feast of the Immaculate Conception which celebrates the singular privilege bestowed upon Mary because of her eternal predestination to be the Virgin-Mother of the Redeemer. Joseph was equally predestined to be the Virgin-Spouse of the Mother and the Virgin-Father of the Redeemer, titles confirmed in the message of Our Lady of America. The intimacy of the relationship of these three persons in God's plan for our salvation and the degree of collaboration shared by the Mother and the earthly Father with the Divine Son is unique and unrepeatable in all the world. This is God's great design of the Hypostatic Order of Grace. Jesus is the only Savior of the world, which required a God-man, a God to satisfy divine justice for the sin of man against an infinite God, and a man to fully represent mankind by assuming our human nature and debt and to be sacrificed as a perfect atonement for our sins.

God as Trinity is family. He created mankind in His image and likeness as family. The sin of Adam cursed the human family with sin's condemnation and separation from God. But God, in His goodness, knowing from eternity of this sin, also planned from eternity mankind's deliverance from its slavery and death and willed to restore the human family to grace as His adopted children with inheritance into His Holy House, His kingdom. No longer are we mere creatures, but are His children. As the first family in the Garden of Eden was built on the marriage of a man and a woman, so the new Holy Family would likewise be built upon the marriage of a man and a woman, Joseph and Mary, who would be granted unprecedented and singular graces to guarantee that humankind would never again face the abyss of darkness, of life without God. Mary would be the pure vessel of a gold not made by human hands, a tabernacle in flesh to bear the All-Holy God into our world. Joseph, as her Virgin-Spouse and Virgin-Father to her Divine Son, would be guardian and master of this Holy House that would become God's paradise on earth, a sanctuary in which God would dwell and minister among us. In God's plan, Mary and Joseph are at the center where human history meets salvation history in the Will of God. Mary and Joseph are the two persons ordained and prepared from eternity for these unique and most holy and magnificent vocations.



This plan of God has two Annunciations. First, Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would bear a son, the Son of the Most High, and He would be given

the throne of David and would rule over the house of Jacob forever, and His reign would have no end. The second was to Joseph who was commanded by the angel to take Mary into his home as his wife, for his specific mission was to confer his family name on Jesus.



If the son of Mary was to be the Messiah, it was imperative that he belong to the family of King David through male descendancy. Joseph's mission, then, revealed by the angel, was to incorporate Jesus, the son of Mary, into the genealogy of David, thereby conferring, humanly speaking, the title of Messiah on Jesus. According to Jewish law and custom, Joseph legally adopted Mary's child when he welcomed her to his home. When Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb, crossed the threshold of Joseph's house, Joseph conferred his name, Son of David, on the child that he thereby willingly adopted. Joseph bestowed the title Messiah on Jesus through his act of faith.

(Rev. Frederick L. Miller, ST. JOSEPH: OUR FATHER IN FAITH, Knights of Columbus, Building the Domestic Church series, 2008-2018, Page 12.)

Father Horacio Bojorge explains that the Messiah is Son of David, not by any will or action of man nor by genealogy, but by the assent of faith of Mary who believed the word the angel had spoken to her, that it was the Son of the Most High who would take flesh within her; and by the assent of Joseph who believed the angel who said the child in Mary's womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit and he must take her into his home and confer his family name upon her child, and the name of Jesus, Savior. These two assents of faith establish the true Israel, the true descendancy of Abraham, Father of our Faith, which is born, propagated and perpetuated, not by human generation but by faith. Thus, God accomplishes His greatest work of the Incarnation of His Son into the human family through the cooperation and obedience of faith of two human beings who collaborated most intimately as mother and father of the Redeemer in the work of our salvation. No other creatures have ever or will ever share this kind of intimacy in the work of our Redemption as did Mary and Joseph. **“Through Mary's faith, the Son of God became man. Though Joseph's faith, Mary's child became Son of David, the Messiah of Israel.”**

(Rev. Frederick L. Miller, referencing Father Horacio Bojorge, *The Image of Mary according to the Evangelists.*)

Nothing in the whole Bible is so radiantly childlike in the writing, and so suitably childlike in the reading, as the four Gospels. It was God as a Child Who made them so. God could be God without Mary. But to become a Child, God needed Mary, as no child has ever needed a mother in the history of mankind.

(The Mother of God, The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Still River, MA, 1999, Pg. 82.)

Saints throughout the ages have extolled Mary's intimate role in the work of redemption.

She was chosen for all eternity to be Mother of God, that those who could not be saved according to the rigor of Divine Justice might be so with the help of her sweet mercy and powerful intercession.... (St. John Chrysostom)

God would not become man without the consent of Mary: in the first place, that we might feel ourselves under great obligation to her, and secondly, that we might understand that the salvation of all is left to the care of the Blessed Virgin...

It is through Mary that we are able to eat the Bread of Heaven every day; it is through her prayers that God inspires us to receive It and grants us the grace to

receive It worthily. As Eve induced man to eat of the forbidden fruit which brought death upon us, so it is right that Mary should prompt us to eat the Bread which gives us life ... This divine Mother is that powerful rod with which the violence of the infernal enemies is conquered. ...Queen of the world... Tabernacle of God...the Celestial Ladder by which the King of Heaven descends to earth and man ascends to Heaven. (St. Peter Damian)

She opens the abyss of the mercy of God to whomsoever she wills, when she wills, and as she wills, so that there is no sinner, however great, who is lost if Mary protects him. (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

As for Joseph, he defines his role in the work of redemption better than we can in his words to Sister Mildred Neuzil in October of 1956 and on March 19, 1958.

“It is true, my daughter, that immediately after my conception, I was, through the future merits of Jesus and because of my exceptional role of future Virgin-Father, cleansed from the stain of original sin. I was from that moment confirmed in grace and never had the slightest stain on my soul. This is my unique privilege among men. My pure heart also was from the first moment of existence inflamed with love for God. Immediately at the moment when my soul was cleansed from original sin, grace was infused into it in such abundance that, excluding my holy spouse, I surpassed the holiness of the highest angel in the angelic choir.”

“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.”

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Tiffin, OH, Pgs. 13 and 28.)

As Mary is Mother of the human body of Christ, so is she Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ. Thus, Joseph, as her spouse and true legal Father of the human Christ, is also Father of the Mystical Body of Christ, God’s other children, Christ’s brothers and sisters by adoption. It is most fitting that St. Joseph be declared Patron and Protector of the Church.

Him whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life. Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble. (Quemadmodum Deus, Pope Pius IX, December 8, 1870.)



As Our Lady states so clearly in her message as Our Lady of America, now is the time for Joseph to receive the honor that is overdue him and has been so long hidden and unknown. His is an urgently needed paternal aid and protection for our generation!

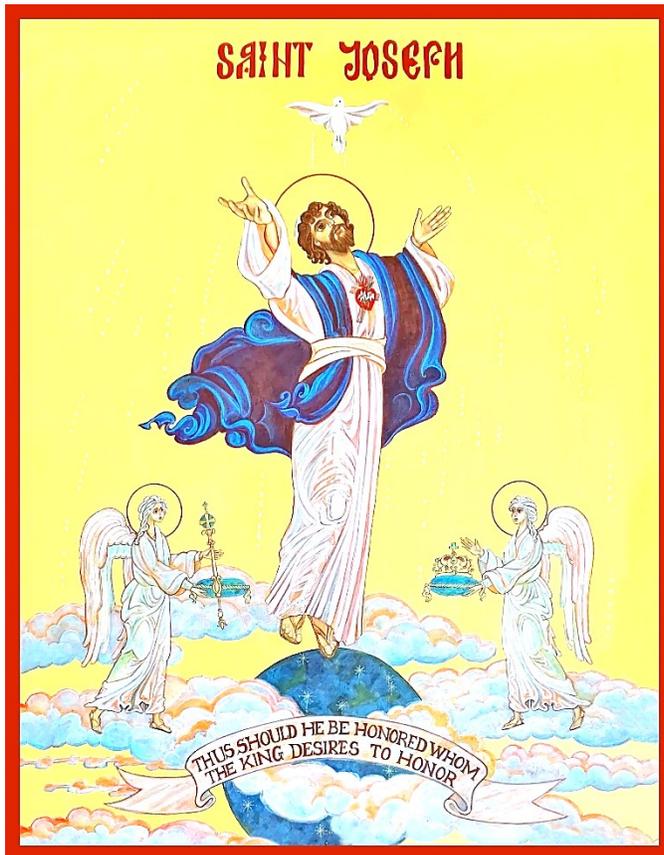
... “Thus should he be honored whom the King desires to honor.” ... “I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His Mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way.” (Neuzil, The Diary, Pgs. 28-31.)

Let us imitate the great favor, honor and mission God Himself has given to Mary and to Joseph in His Holy Will for our salvation with these prayers.

A prayer honoring Mary composed by Pope St. Pius X:

O most holy Virgin who didst find favor in God's sight and hast become His Mother; O Virgin, Immaculate in Body and Soul, in Thy Faith and in Thy Love, look down with pity on the wretched who in our need seek Thy Powerful Protection. The evil serpent on whom was cast the primal curse continues, alas, to attack and ensnare the poor children of Eve. But thou, our Blessed Mother, our Queen and our Advocate, Thou who from the first instant of Thy Conception didst crush the head of this cruel enemy, receive our prayers. United to Thee with one heart, we beseech Thee to present them before the throne of God. May we never be caught in the snares around us, but rather may we all reach the harbor of salvation. Despite the awesome perils which threaten us, may God's Church and all Christian society sing out once again the hymn of deliverance, of victory and of peace. Amen.

And for the first time, we unveil our Icon of the Glorious St. Joseph, done according to the strict rules for icons and in accord with the description of him in Sister Mildred Neuzil's Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, © 2021.



Ad Te Beate Joseph

A prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII

To you, O Blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we seek with confidence thy patronage also. By that affection wherewith you were united to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God; by the fatherly love with which you did embrace the Child Jesus, we humbly beseech you to look down with gracious eye upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased for us by His Blood, and to help us in our need by your powerful intercession. Defend, O you most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, O you our most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old you did rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under thy patronage, so that imitating thy example and strengthened by your help, we

may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in heaven. Amen.

Copyright© Our Lady of America Devotion, Tiffin, Ohio, December 8, 2021, feast of the Immaculate Conception and close of the Year of St. Joseph.

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