

The Message of St. Joseph for Men and the Family

“Fatherhood is from God, and it must take once again its rightful place among men.”



“I bring to souls the purity of my life and the obedience that crowned it. All fatherhood is blest in me whom the Eternal Father chose as His representative on earth, the Virgin-Father of His own Divine Son. Through me the Heavenly Father has blessed all fatherhood, and through me He continues and will continue to do so till the end of time.”

“My spiritual fatherhood extends to all God’s children, and together with my Virgin-Spouse I watch over them with great love and solicitude. Fathers must come to me, small one, to learn obedience to authority: to the church always, as the mouthpiece of God, to the laws of the country in which they live, insofar as these do not go against God and their neighbor.”

“Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world.”

“Let fathers also imitate my great purity of life and the deep respect I held for my Immaculate Spouse. Let them be an example to their children and fellowmen, never willfully doing anything that would cause scandal among God’s people.”

“Fatherhood is from God, and it must take once again its rightful place among men.”

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Tiffin, OH, Page 27, March 18, 1958.)

Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose life was designed and ordained by God uniquely for her role as the Mother of the Son of God whom the Father would send into the world for the recreation of all things, St. Joseph, too, was fashioned with singular graces and privileges befitting his role as protector of the Son and His Mother from the evils of this world and for the restoration of the human family. St. Joseph is the Icon, the Shadow of the Heavenly Father, standing in His place over Jesus during His hidden life. As head of the family, Joseph would form the Sacred Humanity in obedience to the Will of God as revealed to him in the Jewish religion and by the angels of the Lord. As a man, Joseph would model a strong sense of masculine virtue and strength so necessary for Christ’s redemptive mission and would teach Him a trade necessary for life in our world. That little home in Nazareth would be the dwelling place of God, God’s paradise on earth where mankind would learn to walk again in familiarity with God. It would house the three greatest persons who would ever walk on this earth. We can only imagine the presence of angels in quiet adoration, the awesome silence between Mary and Joseph as they lived each day in the Divine Presence. What reverent prayer must have incensed that home as it rose up to heaven in praise and thanksgiving to God Who fulfilled His promise of a Savior now in their midst. This family, by its obedience to the Will of God, would restore the grace and splendor intended for the human family but destroyed by the disobedience of the first family in the garden of Eden. This family, the earthly trinity, would mirror most perfectly the inner life and exchange of love of the Heavenly Trinity itself.

A great devotee of St. Joseph and of Our Lady of America, having known of Sister Mildred Neuzil's message since before Sister died, Father Stanley Smolenski, writes:

Satan achieved disruption in the Garden of Eden: he succeeded in separating mankind from God our Creator. Mankind no longer "walked with God" familiarly as he previously did. Adam and Eve chose to make their decisions independent of God – the Original Sin – that still marks mankind. Mankind is seeking political harmony while destroying its foundation, the basic social unit: the family. At the core of that is the role of the man because it was Adam's responsibility as Master of Creation to keep that harmony firm by a proper relationship with its Creator – which Adam rejected and therefore lost. Cut off from the Creator's plan for mankind, our culture presents a confused role for the man in that basic social unit, the family. The overall effect is that what has been produced is not a culture of life but of death. Reference: <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/mission-of-st-joseph-the-worker-and-holy-family>

There is an effort today to declare traditional marriage and family and fatherhood itself as obsolete; however, the family is the domestic Church and whatever happens to the family will greatly influence the life of the Church. Father Smolenski, in the article noted, raises the question: what is behind Satan's attack on the family – especially the father? Father's answer: ***Because he [satan] cannot attack God the Father directly, he is out to destroy his created image: the human father.*** Our Lord taught his disciples to pray to God as "Our Father who art in heaven". Without a proper image of a father, learned from experience on earth, that address to God has no meaning; therefore, a true relationship with God the Father can suffer because of this distortion and deficiency.

In that same article, Father Smolenski defines ***four essential inner relationships in the family***: [1] the ***spousal*** relationship between the husband and wife; [2] the ***parental*** relationship of parents toward their children; [3] the ***filial*** relationship of children toward their parents; and [4] the ***fraternal*** relationship among brothers and sisters. The Most Holy Family, being filled with grace for the restoration of the human family, lived these relationships perfectly at Nazareth. Since the extended family members were treated as though immediate members, Jesus experienced vicariously fraternal relationships as well. St. Joseph attests to his lived experience of these relationships in his words to Sister Mildred Neuzil.

"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. (The Diary, Page 29.)"

Father Smolenski, in the same article, recounts the message of God the Father to Mother Eugenia Elisabeta Ravasio in 1932, approved by Bishop Alexandre Caillot of Grenoble [France].

God the Father complained "how his paternal love has been forgotten by men". He also complained about the exaggerated fear we have of him and made an earnest request: "Do not think of Me as that frightening old man whom men depict in their pictures and books!" He portrayed himself otherwise: "I wish all my creatures to be convinced that there is a Father

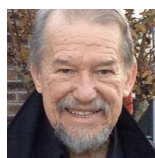
who watches over them and who would like them to enjoy, on earth, a foretaste of eternal happiness.” That can only be if we initiate a strong relationship with him in this life. He continued, “Remember that I wish to be the hope of humanity... Man would be lost if I were not his hope.” Most pertinent to our subject is this statement: “My hour has come! I must be known, loved and honored by men, so that, having created them, I can be their Father, then their Savior, and finally the object of their eternal delight.”

Oh, the blessing of a good father and the curse to have an absent or abusive one. In his book, **FAITH OF THE FATHERLESS: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ATHEISM**, Paul C. Vitz studied some of the world’s best-known atheists, such as Hitler, Nietzsche, and Stalin, and concluded that alienation from God is most often a reaction to the loss of or the absence of a father, or the presence of a defective or abusive father in one’s life. Since the father is “dead” to them, God is “dead” to them. **How can we miss that innate desire to identify God as Father?** Often the vacuum created by fatherlessness opens the door to an abnormal feminism and male gender disorders as well. There is a direct correlation between failed fathers and the rise of atheism and the decay of western society and the effort to remove fathers from the family. Father Smolenski identifies **five true fatherhoods** in our Faith: **[1] the Divine fatherhood of God the Father; [2] the Supernatural fatherhood of Jesus Christ, the New Adam [1 Cor.15.22], Father of the World to come [Isaiah 9.6], Jesus addressed St. Faustina as “My daughter” [Diary 757]; [3] the Virginal fatherhood of St. Joseph [Matthew]; [4] the Spiritual fatherhood of priests [1 Cor.4.14,15]; [5] the Natural fatherhood of men.** As mentioned, Satan cannot attack God the Father directly, so he is trying to **demolish** the other four fatherhoods that we can experience.

St. Joseph has great power in heaven. Our Lady told Venerable Mary of Agreda:

The children of the world are ignorant regarding the privileges and rights which the Most High has conferred on my holy spouse, and the power of his intercession with the Divine Majesty and me. But I assure you, my daughter, that in Heaven he is most intimate with the Lord and has great power to avert the punishment of Divine justice from sinners. In all trials seek his intercession because the Heavenly Father will grant whatever my spouse asks. On the Day of Judgment, the condemned will weep bitterly for not having realized how powerful and efficacious a means of salvation they might have had in the intercession of St. Joseph, and for not having done their utmost to gain the friendship of the Eternal Judge. (Favorite Prayers to St. Joseph, Tan Books, Pg. 14.)

March is the month of St. Joseph whose feast day is March 19th. Will you spend some time with him reflecting on the great gift of his life and example for us? Check out these videos about St. Joseph based on the message of Our Lady of America, done by Jose Rodrigues, one of Our Lady’s Torchbearers of the Queen and a great devotee of St. Joseph. Also ponder the article on St. Joseph by Father Stanley Smolenski, SPMA, listed above in the National Catholic Register link.



Father Stanley Smolenski is a native of New Haven, Connecticut. A priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, he was educated in the U.S., Canada, and Rome with degrees in philosophy and theology with a specialization in spirituality. His various ministries included parishes, youth, the sick and handicapped, retreats, seminary professor, pilgrimage director, lecturer, and author. Now a Baptistine canonical hermit in the service of the Diocese of Charleston, he is the director of the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Joyful Hope/Our Lady of South Carolina in Kingstree, South Carolina.

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuwXMFNqY_jqnDWCyAnXKQopSZIPjCaWy&si=jlygvLixEjMv809E

Copyright© Our Lady of America Devotion, Tiffin, Ohio, March 11,2024
All rights reserved.