



A FATHER'S HEART...

Today we celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary and father of Jesus...

This singular man, this compassionate father, shows to us the silence as a way to encounter with ourselves and allow to be encountered by the Church, God and neighbors.

Let us then silence our heart to enter into the heart of this simple and humble, generous and available man, who in his YES, became the channel of Love in the world...

Canto: Busca el silencio, ten alerta el corazón;
calla y contempla.

Meditative silence.

Canto: DEAR SAINT JOSEPH

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5E_9SopjkRw

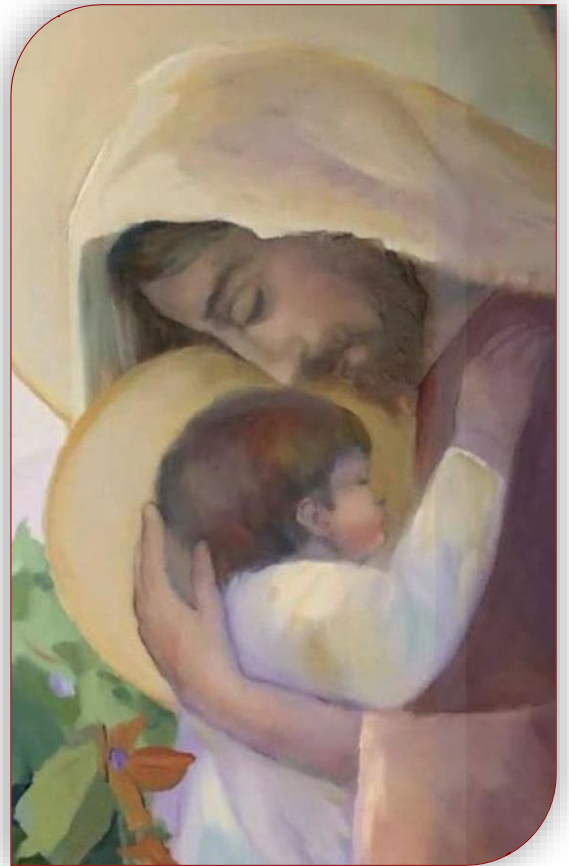
*Dear Saint Joseph, pure and gentle
Guardian of the Saviour-child
Treading with the Virgin Mother
Egypt's desert, rough and wild.*

*Hail, Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary
Best beyond all saints above
In these times of selfish living
Teach, oh teach us how to love.
Dear Saint Joseph, kind and loving*

*Stretch to us a helping hand
Guide us through life's toil and
sorrow
Safely to our true homeland*

*Hail, Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary
Best beyond all saints above
In these times of selfish living
Teach, oh teach us how to love.*

Allow the words of this song that we have listened to speak us about Saint Joseph and with freedom and trust, let us share one word, one of his characteristics, which speaks the most to your life... (Short moment)





A MOMENT OF THE WORD

We put ourselves attentive to listen the Word of the Lord knowing that today He wants to illuminate our life through the figure of Saint Joseph...

From the Gospel according to Saint Matthew:

"«Joseph son of David do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.» [...] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus"



"WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus"

Patris Corde

By giving Jesus a name, Joseph assumed completely his role of a father. A father with a special heart who keeps forming, „sculpturing” the heart of his son: a heart that is near, compassionate, amiable, of service, attentive, endearing...

From this father's heart and united with the heart of Jesus, we intercede for whole humanity, especially for its part that is in need of compassion, mercy, love...

- **Beloved father, who made of your life** a total gift of yourself, of your life, of your work, your heart and all capacity in loving put at the service of Messiah born in your house, teach us to live in permanent self-donation and service of those you entrust to us day by day.
- **Father of tenderness**, who teaches us to believe that God can act even through fears, fragility and weakness, make us live relationships that are full of respect, inclusive, dignifying, of solidarity and fraternity with those who suffer the most: the marginalized, poor, vulnerable, rejected.
- **Father of obedience**, who the same way Mary did, gave your Fiat to the plans and ways of God, help people of God and especially those who have the mission of „shepherding”, to cultivate a heart and a life in total docility to the project and the ways of God, assuming all the structural consequences it might imply.



- **Father of acceptance**, who shows us that God can give us strength to welcome life the way it is, to make space even for this contradictory part, unexpected and disappointing of the existence, intercede in a special way for those who suffer from depression, emptiness and meaninglessness; may we know to bring them light and warmth of God's love.
- **Father of courage, who knew** to transform every problem in opportunity, setting before always trust in the Providence, increase our hope and help us to persevere and to search for new ways to solve difficulties, challenges and defiance today's world presents us, especially the violence, wars and divisions.
- **Father-Worker, from whom** Jesus learned the value, dignity and joy of what it means to eat bread that is fruit of one's own work, intercede for all the workers, may they be always treated with dignity and justice.
- **Father in the shadow, who makes us remember** that paternity is never possession but a „sign“ that evokes a superior paternity, inspire all who exercise any type of authority to live it with clarity and generosity.

We finish praying together with the words of prayer that Pope Francis has directed to Saint Joseph in his Apostolic Letter uniting ourselves with his intention to intercede for whole of humanity the grace of all graces: the conversion.

*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.*

