

Week 16



Saint Joseph was unpretentious in the eyes of the world. He had no worldly ambition or desire for recognition. The Holy Family was poor. Very Poor. Saint Joseph was so lowly and poor in the sight of the world that the wise men who entered the stable in Bethlehem did not even acknowledge his presence (Mt 2:11) When the Holy Family journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem to participate in the Jewish ritual of purification for a new mother, Saint Joseph could only offer a poor man's gift, that is two turtledoves or two pigeons (Levi 12:8) The Holy Family lived on Divine Providence. Had Baby Jesus not been given gold, frankincense, and myrrh by the wise men it is likely that Saint Joseph would not have had money to purchase food and other necessities for his family when they traveled to Egypt. The gifts of the wise men were God's providential way of taking care of the Holy Family. Years later after returning to Nazareth from Egypt, the Holy Family lived in a small and simple house. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven" (Mt 5:3). What he is saying is that those who

are detached from the things of this world are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven. When a person is detached from things of the world, poverty is a virtue. This explains why Saint Joseph is called "Lover of Poverty!" The silence of Saint Joseph proves his greatness and poverty of spirit. He trusted God, would bring good fruit from his labor and years of service to Jesus and Mary. "He Saint Joseph lived content in his poverty." – St. Bonaventure

Excerpts from: "Consecration to Saint Joseph", Father Donald Calloway, MIC

Week 17



Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it. St. Thomas Aquinas taught that prudence is the “principal of all the virtues.” Its role is to govern the other cardinal virtues: temperance, justice, and fortitude. The prudence of Saint Joseph was a supernatural prudence – blessed William Joseph Chaminade. Supernatural prudence is different, from human prudence. Human prudence guides a person to avoid difficulty, suffering, and hardship. Supernatural prudence, does not seek to avoid suffering. Supernatural prudence embraces the cross out of love and always strives for the greater good. By God’s grace, Saint Joseph’s prudence was supernatural and heroic. Saint Joseph willingly and voluntarily embraced suffering for the good of others. Saint Joseph will help you exercise supernatural prudence. He will teach you to always do what is right for the sake of the love of God and neighbor, no matter how much you have to suffer for it.

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Week 18



Saint Joseph is the father of Jesus, but he is also a disciple of Jesus. It takes courage to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. Many are willing to follow Jesus when it is pleasant, but not many are willing, to follow Jesus when it is difficult and filled with sorrow. Saint Joseph was always faithful, always courageous. He feared nothing other than offending God and exercises tremendous fortitude in his protection of Jesus and Mary. Fortitude is a cardinal virtue that strengthens the will and gives a person courage and a firm resolve to do God's will, even in the midst of great suffering. The root word of courage is "cour," meaning "heart." To be courageous is to love the good more than you fear the evil and the suffering. It took great courage for Saint Joseph to take his family into enemy territory (Egypt). Egypt was a land notorious for thieves, pagan rituals, idols, and sorcerers. Your spiritual father was a poor man and of no esteem in the world. Yet demons and sorcerers of Egypt were terrified of the courageous heart of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph gave his Son an example of manly love, courage, strength, and fortitude. With Saint Joseph as your spiritual father, you also have nothing to be afraid of.

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Week 19



If you want to know Saint Joseph's obedience, look at how he rose at night at the angel's voice and, giving no care to hunger, hardship, or cold, went to Egypt where he led a hard life until the next command. - Saint Joseph Sebastian – Pelzcar. Obedience is a misunderstood virtue. Many people are of the opinion that obedience to authority limits their freedom, requiring them to hand over their right to others. This is not the case. Natural law and divine law are not inhibitors to freedom. In God's plan, the purpose of these laws is to help us reach our ultimate destination heaven. Saint Joseph is a model of obedience. Obedience requires trust. Lack of trust on the part of our first parents (Adam and Eve) is what caused all mankind to fall into sin. Our new parents, Mary and Saint Joseph, trusted God and were willing to suffer for their obedience to God. Mary and Saint Joseph were certain that God, had their best interests in mind.

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Week 20



The venerable Fulton Sheen spoke of the three rings of marriage: the engagement ring, the wedding ring, and the suffering. Marriage is not easy. It will be filled with many hardships, difficulties, and trials. For a marriage to work, mutual love, sacrifice, and faithfulness are necessary. A Christian relationship with God is a spiritual marriage. It too requires mutual love, sacrifice, and faithfulness. Faith is one of the three theological virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity). What exactly is faith? The Letter to the Hebrews gives us a good definition. It states "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) Christian faith acknowledges who Jesus is, adheres to his teachings, and trusts in his promises. Saint Joseph never doubted the divinity of Jesus or his power to conquer evil. To the world, Jesus looked like an ordinary child but Saint Joseph, knew he was God. He adored our Lord in the cradle, in the home at Nazareth, in the Temple in Jerusalem, and as a grown man in his workshop. Saint Joseph was always aware that, in seeing Jesus, he was gazing upon God Almighty.

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