



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

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Closing The Year of St. Joseph?

By: Brendan McVicker

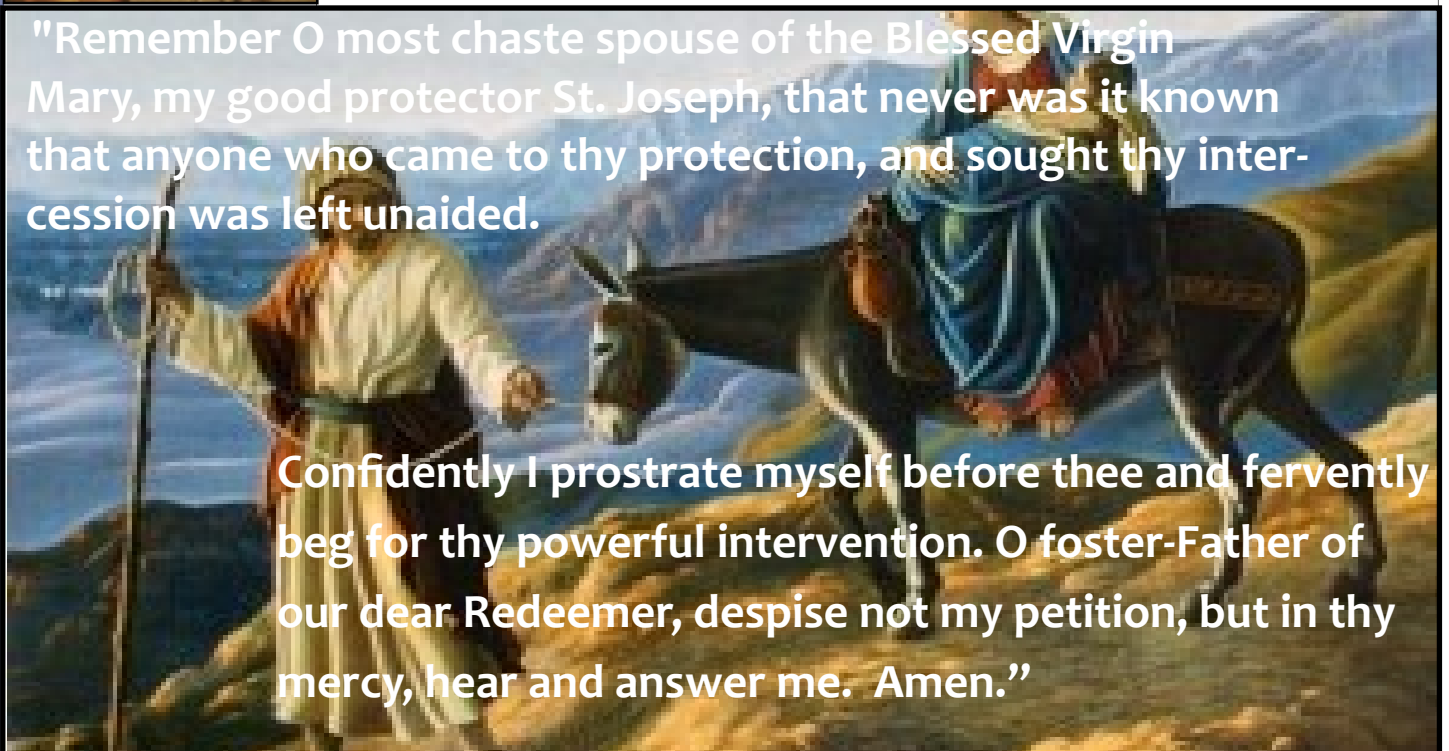
All Fatherhood Fraternity Newsletters this last year has been engaged in the celebration of the Year of St. Joseph. As this year of St. Joseph closes, I am filled with so much gratitude. I cannot believe how much this year has impacted me, how much I learned; how much more I am tied to St. Joseph, his protection of my family, his intercession, all the virtues of being a saintly father that I ask St. Joseph to help me grow in. I may be slow on the uptake of these virtues at times but I'm not giving up on St. Joseph's assistance. I hope the same is for you. I have to say that before the start of year of St. Joseph last December 8th, 2020, I didn't think much of it. I thought, oh that's nice a year of St. Joseph. But I had no clue at all on how it would impact my life, not just this year but for the rest of my life.

To be honest, over the last year I have kicked myself several times, because I found myself saying, "how did I not know this". I just didn't know what a tremendous gift St. Joseph is. Finally my eyes have been opened. I learned so much this last year on St. Joseph from the years Newsletters that focused on him, the incredible Consecration to St. Joseph along with all the different stories and various prayers that I had no idea even existed. And lastly, The Holy Cloak of St. Joseph Novena to close out the last 30 days of year that brought to light for me "that he is one of the greatly favored personages in the divine presence and has immense power to stay the arms of divine vengeance."

You know from the very beginning of this Fraternity of Fatherhood we received from Fr. Santan Pinto, it has always been entrusted to the patronage of St. Joseph. That is not just words to me anymore. I take it to heart with renewed gratitude! And although the Year of St. Joseph is closing, does it really have to close? My invitation to you is keep it going the rest of your life. Add that one devotion to your daily prayers, as easy as: *"Help me St. Joseph. Assist me now and throughout my lifetime, but especially at the moment of my death, as you were assisted by Jesus and Mary, that I may join you one day in Heaven and there honor you for all eternity. Amen."*

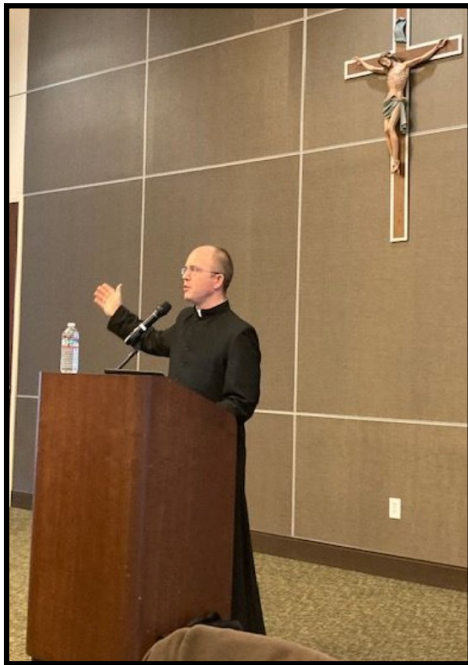
"Remember O most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my good protector St. Joseph, that never was it known that anyone who came to thy protection, and sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Confidently I prostrate myself before thee and fervently beg for thy powerful intervention. O foster-Father of our dear Redeemer, despise not my petition, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen."



Men's Day of Faith Renewal 2021

By: Mike Allison



St. Mel in Fair Oaks, CA hosted our 8th Annual Men's Day of Faith Renewal.

This actually would have been our 9th but like the rest of the world, we had to cancel our 2020 event because of COVID. One of the blessings of this, however, was the desire put in men's hearts to rejoin together in worshipping God and being encouraged by one another in our faith.

We were greatly blessed to have Fr. Matthew Spencer as our spiritual leader and teacher for the day. We had one hundred and fifty one men in attendance. Four priests heard our confessions and an estimated eighty men received this great sacrament of God's mercy.

We began the day by celebrating Mass. This day could not have gone any better.

Below are some bullet point notes

captured from Father Spencer's teachings. I hope you find them helpful in your prayer and meditations and most importantly put them into action.

Thank God for this blessed year of St. Joseph and may we continue to seek the lessons he has for us men as we enter the new year.

Your brother in Christ, Mike

**“Get serious about your faith!
Our salvation is on the line and we must desire to become saints.”**

Fr. Matthew Spencer

Notes From Men's Day of Faith Renewal 2021 - St. Joseph: Fr. Spencer

- Saint Joseph was great because he lived for God and God alone.
- How can you serve the church as a man? Help bring the Lord's healing to people.
- Where is your treasure? That's where your heart will be.
- Hope is a virtue of Saint Joseph's. Hope is his desire for the kingdom of heaven and true happiness.
- Some think Saint Joseph was suspicious of Mary's pregnancy. No! His questioning and intention to quietly divorce Mary was a question of his humility. "How can I be worthy to be the father of the Messiah?"



....continued Men's Day of Faith Renewal 2021

- COVID is not the problem. The problem is fear, and preoccupation with what is happening. The problem is the lack of trust in divine providence and a lack of trust in God's plan.
- We need to work on our bad habits. Our bad habits are a product of our fallen nature.
- Why does God permit us to go through these evils? The answer is to bring about a greater good. The lesson of the cross is the greatest example of this. The greatest evil of the cross brought about our salvation.
- One of the great failures of men is their failure to lead. You lead by giving your life to others.
- Everything we do is for the life of the church.
- It is not true that we have to be smarter than the people we evangelize.
- Evangelization is not about convincing, it is about acts of love that changes hearts... the small gestures.
- Saint Joseph was amazing and great because he did exactly what God ordained him to do!
- Saint Joseph was a carpenter but also a craftsman. Use the gifts that God has given you to craft something beautiful in your life.
- Some of the works of Saint Joseph the worker was his artistry and his craftsmanship... doing things well.
- God is merciful, but he is also expecting great things from us, that's because he gives us the grace to accomplish whatever it is He is demanding.
- Despair means simply giving up on God's mercy.
- Get serious about your faith! Our salvation is on the line and we must desire to become saints.
- If we don't desire to become holy and become Saints then others will miss out also because we are not living as intensely as God desires for us to live.



Portland, OR Fraternity of Fatherhood Men

Join us for 7:30AM Mass the first Saturday of each month followed with breakfast and discussion closing by 9:30AM

Both single and married men are welcome.

Contact Brendan McVicker for more information at 503-358-4963.

Come join us!



A Fraternity for All Men

The Fraternity of Fatherhood is for men of all ages. Our desire is to serve the Lord in all areas of our lives and to especially model our gift and responsibilities as fathers after the example of God the Father and His goodness. We support men; meeting them where they are. We engage in one-on-one friendships and provide opportunities for group activity, support and formation.

We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage of Saint Joseph.

Our Mission

To serve as men dedicated to the Lord in all aspects of our lives. To encourage and support men / fathers throughout the world in their gift and responsibilities as fathers. To encourage and support fathers "to respond" to their vocation, to protect and remain strong carrying their families in their hearts. Our desire is to be united to The Lord and fulfill our holy mission as fathers.

What is it we hope to do?

Bring men / fathers, closer to God by inviting them to learn their faith, challenging them to live their faith and encouraging them to love and share their faith. In addition, we invite those not married as this is a time to discern their vocation and calling in the Church.

As Fraternity of Fatherhood members, we are committed to grow and be formed spirituality, to support each other, to be active and supportive in our parishes. We are committed to learn who we are as Catholic men, to be discovered through our life experiences, prayer, studying Scripture and the documents of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, obedience to the Holy Roman Pontiff, our Roman Catholic Bishops and our parish Pastors. The formation of "Fatherhood" takes place in our hearts. Being a father means understanding that it is a call. When Fatherhood is received as a gift, it is accepted in humility and gratitude. Humility comes from the fact that we are weak. The pressures of the world are strong and flesh seems to have its way. Gratitude comes from the fact that the Lord is our Shepherd and He is with us always. With Him all things are possible.

Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Dcn. Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception December 8th...

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. Four years later, 1858, in Lourdes, France Our Lady confirmed to Bernadette that she is "The Immaculate Conception".

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*



CARRY YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR HEART - A CALL TO HOLINESS

A husband/father's guide to his vocation and spiritual direction. Each Newsletter focuses on one of the Guidelines or Areas of Growth from the "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" book. These guidelines to our Fatherhood Vocation & Spiritual Formation have been formatted based on the Fatherhood Retreat Guideline Teachings & under Spiritual Direction of Fr. Santan Pinto, S.O.L.T.

DEVOTED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY

In our growth and development as fathers, we need a lot of help. Mary is our help. Without her protection and guidance, we will be lost. Mary is the surest, safest and simplest way to her Son. At the foot of the cross, our Lord, in giving Mary to beloved St. John, Jesus gave us His mother as well. We cannot go wrong under her guidance and protection.

Our Lady said "Yes." She said yes for all of us, for the entire human race. As fathers, we need to echo that yes for our own lives. In saying yes, we are saying that we will surrender what we are, our humanity, our fatherhood to the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to shape us, fill us, teach us. This surrender requires absolute trust just like Our Lady's surrender. It was without condition and without reservation.

Mary has given us two great gifts and both are great weapons against Satan - the Rosary and the Brown Scapular - a powerful devotion and sacramental endorsed by our Church. While holding the rosary in our hand, it is the same as holding our Blessed Mother's hand. Our Lady says to wear the scapular devoutly and perseveringly. "It is my garment. To be clothed in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you secure eternal life."

Mary's devotion is to lead us to her Son. She leads us to her Son in the Eucharist. Every second of the day, somewhere in the world a priest is lifting the host. In the same way that the Word of God nourishes, so does the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we witness heaven and earth come together.

As fathers we should offer our families protection and guidance to Mary. As St. John Damascene says, "To be devoted to Mary is an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save."

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)



Saints Devoted to St. Joseph

yearofstjoseph.org

Throughout Church history many saints have had a special devotion to St. Joseph, crediting him for many answered prayers and their personal growth in holiness. Read a few testimonies about the power of St. Joseph's intercession below.

St. Francis de Sales

The great Doctor of the Church and bishop of Geneva, St. Francis de Sales, was not only a faithful devotee of the Guardian of the Redeemer but his avid proponent as well.

St. Francis de Sales made St. Joseph the special Patron of the religious order he founded, the Order of the Visitation. In addition to naming at least one of his parishes in his honor, he set Joseph as the model of the interior life and contemplative prayer for his own spiritual daughters—and in particular for the novices, who were to look upon St. Joseph as their novice "master" and guide (A Manual of Practical Devotion to the Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, translated by Fr. Patrignani, p. 78).

St. Teresa of Avila

In her autobiography, the holy Carmelite mystic and reformer sings the praises of her holy father, St. Joseph, and gives proof of his powerful intercession:

"I took for my patron and lord the glorious St. Joseph, and recommended myself earnestly to him. I saw clearly that both out of this my present trouble, and out of others of greater importance, relating to my honour and the loss of my soul, this my father and lord delivered me, and rendered me greater services than I knew how to ask for.

I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything which he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favours which God hath given me through this blessed Saint; the dangers from which he hath delivered me, both of body and of soul.

To other Saints, our Lord seems to have given grace to succour men in some special necessity; but to this glorious Saint, I know by experience, to help us in all: and our Lord would have us understand that as He was Himself subject to him upon earth—for St. Joseph having the title of father, and being His guardian, could command Him—so now in heaven He performs all his petitions.

Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious Saint; for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known any one who was really devout to him, and who honoured him by particular services, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue; for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him.

But I ask, for the love of God, that he who does not believe me will make the trial for himself—when he will see by experience the great good that results from commending oneself to this glorious patriarch, and being devout to him.

Those who give themselves to prayer should in a special manner have always a devotion to St. Joseph; for I know not how any man can think of the Queen of the angels, during the time that she suffered so much with the Infant Jesus, without giving thanks to St. Joseph for the services he rendered them then. He who cannot find any one to teach him how to pray, let him take this glorious Saint for his master, and he will not wander out of the way."

(Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, chapter 6)

St. Teresa also makes clear the best reason to love and to have recourse to St. Joseph: Jesus and Mary did so! In a vision of Our Lady and St. Joseph, St. Teresa recounts:

"Our Lady seemed at once to take me by both hands. She said that I pleased her very much by being devoted to the glorious St. Joseph."

(St. Teresa's Life, as quoted in Dr. Mark Miravalle's Meet Your Spiritual Father: an Introduction to St. Joseph published by Lighthouse Catholic Media/Marian Press)



Saints Devoted to St. Joseph

yearofstjoseph.org

Ven. Margaret of the Most Holy Sacrament

This holy Carmelite, known endearingly as the "Spouse of His Holy Infancy," loved to meditate on the Childhood of Jesus and His life with Mary and Joseph. By her own example of love and devotion, she encourages all Christians to venerate St. Joseph as the worthy spouse of the Mother of God and the guardian of the "Immaculate Word". In writing to a friend in religious life who had been assigned as an assistant to another sister, Venerable Margaret of the Most Holy Sacrament reminds us to labor in union with St. Joseph in the midst of the tasks of everyday life:

"I am delighted to find you installed in your present post. I conjure you to unite yourself to our dear and amiable Child Jesus, who, in St. Joseph's workshop, did not consider Himself the master, but merely as an assistant. Unite your labors to those of that Blessed Child: accustom yourself to look upon the sister whom you have been appointed to assist, in the same light as that in which He considered St. Joseph. I am also an assistant to one of our sisters, and I will endeavor to be faithful to the practices which I now recommend to you."

(A Manual of Practical Devotion to the Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, pp. 89-90)

St. Josemaría Escrivá

On St. Joseph's Faith

"He kept the commandments of God without wavering, even though the meaning of those commandments was sometimes obscure or their relation to the rest of the divine plan hidden from him... Joseph's faith does not falter, he obeys quickly and to the letter.

To understand this lesson better, we should remember that Joseph's faith is active, that his docility is not a passive submission to the course of events. For the Christian's faith has nothing whatever to do with conformity, inertia or lack of initiative."

(Christ is Passing By, no. 42)

On Working Like St. Joseph

"You, who celebrate with me today this feast of St. Joseph, are men who work in different human professions; you have your own homes, you belong to so many different countries and have different languages. You have been educated in lecture halls or in factories and offices. You have worked in your profession for years, established professional and personal friendships with your colleagues, helped to solve the problems of your companies and your communities.

Well then: I remind you once again that all this is not foreign to God's plan. Your human vocation is a part—an important part—of your divine vocation.

That is the reason why you must strive for holiness, giving a particular character to your human personality, a style to your life; contributing at the same time to the sanctification of others... sanctifying your work and your environment: the profession or job that fills your day, your home and family and country where you were born and which you love."

(Christ is Passing By, no. 46)

On St. Joseph as Model of the Interior Life

"In human life, Joseph was Jesus' master in their daily contact, full of refined affection, glad to deny himself to take better care of Jesus. Isn't that reason enough for us to consider this just man, this holy patriarch, in whom the faith of the old covenant bears fruit, as a master of the interior life? Interior life is nothing but continual and direct conversation with Christ, so as to become one with him. And Joseph can tell us many things about Jesus.

Therefore, never neglect devotion to him—Ite ad Ioseph: "Go to Joseph"—as Christian tradition puts it in the words of the old testament (Gen 41:55)."

(Christ is Passing By, no. 56)



POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.**



St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.



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