



# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 10

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June 10, 2021

### ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

The feast of St. Joseph the worker is a time to be grateful to God as we imitate Joseph who worked hard watching, protecting and supporting Jesus and Mary. Joseph could have looked at this as a task but he accepted this work as a gift. I pray that you will consider all the work that comes your way as a gift.

It is a time to wonder at the great things the Lord is doing in our lives. Often we have to learn from children how to wonder at little things. In my recent visit a little girl gave me a card with hearts and flowers. I looked at her eyes and saw in them the wonder that made sense. There is so much of love and beauty around us and all we have to do is wonder.

It is a time to ponder how best to serve just like Joseph did. Take time today and consider if you enter this gift of work with the same dedication that Joseph had. You will say, "Joseph had to give his best because Jesus was watching him work." Take a moment to ponder over that sentence. In your life is Jesus watching you work?

And it is a time to surrender for here we come to Joseph who was always obedient to God. In understanding our journey in life often we too have to consider if we listen attentively and are we open to doing God's will.

With my priestly blessings,  
Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT  
*(Letter to Fraternity of Fatherhood, April 28th, 2010)*

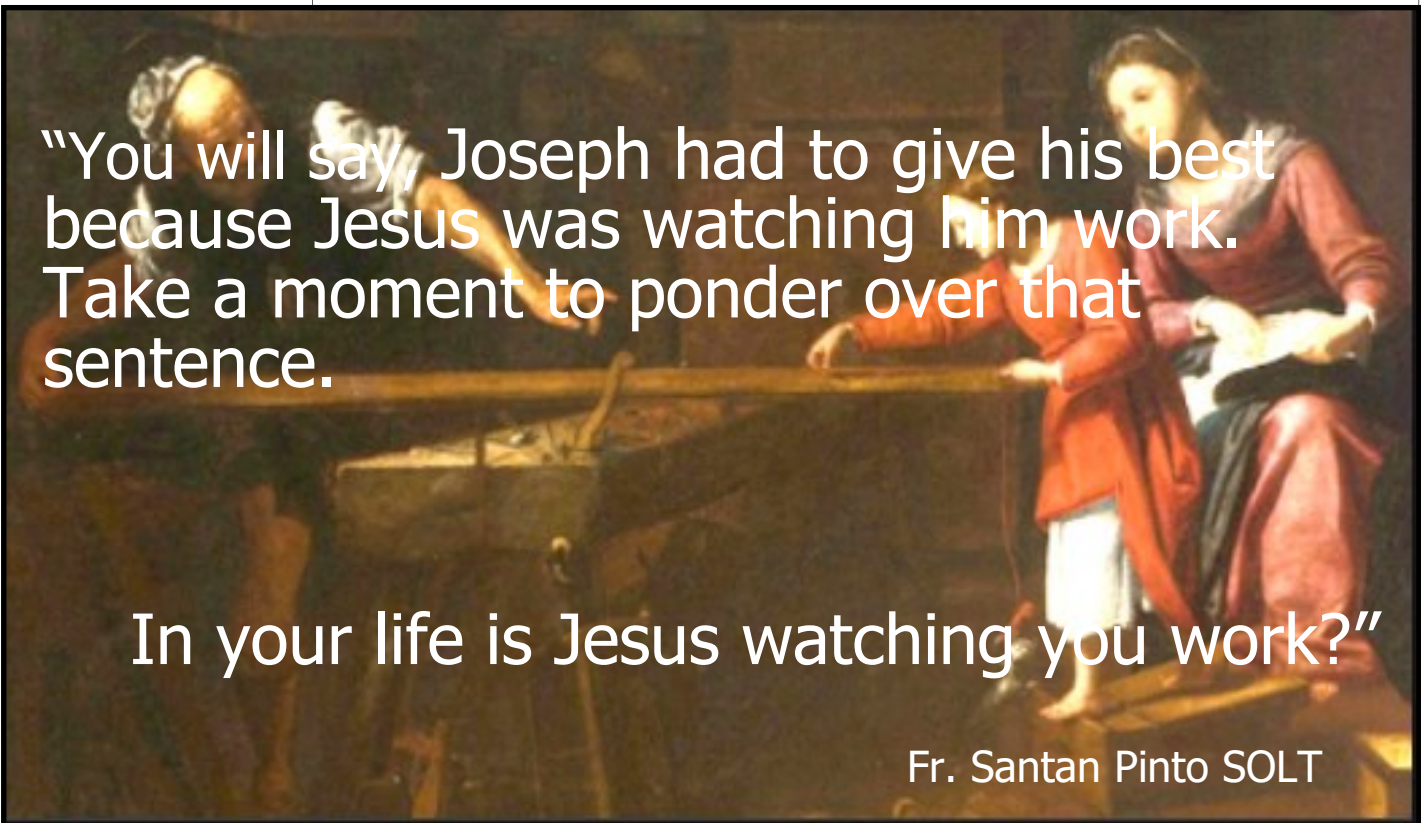


**Fr. Santan Pinto  
SOLT**

"You will say, Joseph had to give his best because Jesus was watching him work. Take a moment to ponder over that sentence.

In your life is Jesus watching you work?"

Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT



## Patron of Workers

### PRAYER FOR WORK

God our Father and our Creator,

You bestow on us gifts and talents to develop and use in accord with Your will.

Grant to me, through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, As model and guide, employment and work, that I may with dignity, provide for those who depend upon me for care and support.

Grant me the opportunities to use my energy and my talents and abilities for the good of all, and the glory of Your name.

Amen



### *Saint Joseph* *Patron of Workers*

Glorious St. Joseph, you are the pattern of all who work. Obtain for me, please, the grace to work conscientiously and to put devotion to duty before my selfish inclinations. Help me to labor in thankfulness and joy, for it is an honor to employ and to develop by my labor the gifts I have received from almighty God. Grant that I may work in orderliness, peace, moderation and patience without shrinking from weariness and difficulties. I offer my fatigue and perplexities as reparation for sin. I shall work, above all, with a pure intention and with detachment from self, having always before my eyes the hour of death and the accounting which I must to render of time ill-spent, of talents unemployed, of good undone, and of empty pride in success, which is so fatal to the work of God.

For Jesus through Mary, all in imitation of you, good St. Joseph. This shall be my motto in life and in death.

Amen



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## Model of Workmen - Pray For Us

*Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC*

DAY 24 of St. Joseph Consecration: At the workbench where he [St. Joseph] plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption.<sup>1</sup> — St. John Paul II

The devil hates an honest and diligent worker. At the beginning of human history, the wicked serpent initiated his attack on the human family in the workplace — that is, the garden God gave Adam and Eve to tend and keep. Lucifer hates work. He particularly disdains the fact that because of love, God humbled himself and became a man, making himself capable of manual labor. Jesus spent many years in St. Joseph's workshop diligently working. It was preparation for his re-entering man's original workshop — a garden; the Garden of Gethsemane, specifically — and accomplishing the work of our redemption.



Jesus is God. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, he made the heavens and the earth. Our Lord's ability to create far exceeds anything we can possibly imagine. When he became flesh, Jesus sanctified human work and elevated it to a level of greatness that did not exist prior to his Incarnation. Though divine, God humbled himself, became a man, and worked like a man. In his humanity, he learned how to work as a man by imitating the example of his earthly father, St. Joseph.

Saint Joseph is the model workman. If St. Joseph taught the God-Man how to work, he is more than capable of serving as our model as well. Hard work benefits the person, the family, and society.

He [St. Joseph] belongs to the working-class, and he bore the burdens of poverty for himself and the Holy Family, whose tender and vigilant head he was.<sup>2</sup> — Pope Pius XI

Work is not always easy and pleasant. Putting in a hard day's work can be taxing on the mind, body, and soul. Sometimes work can be downright burdensome. As a carpenter, Jesus knew this firsthand. He offers comfort to all who make their living by the sweat of their brow.

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. — Mt 11:28-30

Saint Joseph will teach you how to be a diligent worker. Our Lord desired to do manual labor for many years before initiating his public ministry. Why did he do it? He did it because he wanted to sanctify work and teach us that work is honorable and pleasing to God. However, neither Jesus nor St. Joseph were workaholics. Workaholics are of no benefit to themselves, the family, or society. God does not delight in a workaholic.

Jesus learned the proper place of work in his life through the loving example of St. Joseph. Saint Joseph made time for God, family, recreation, and rest. Saint Joseph modeled these aspects of human life for Jesus. Saint Joseph will teach you these important lessons as well.

Saint Joseph also serves as the model workman for the imitation of those who work for the salvation of souls, especially deacons, priests, bishops, and religious. Consecrated souls are to work diligently and faithfully in God's vineyard. This work, too, can be difficult and burdensome. Priests, deacons, and consecrated religious are human; they need rest and recreation like everyone else. On rare occasions, God gives extraordinary graces for a person to perform heroic penances, fasts, and mortifications. However, God never desires for his workers to burn out from sheer exhaustion. He wants them to take delight in mountain streams, forests, and sunsets. He wants priests and nuns who are like St. Joseph: loving, prayerful, hard-working, and not afraid to rest.

Let us ask St. Joseph to foster staunch vocations for our Lord. — St. Peter Julian Eymard

## A Reflection of St. Joseph the Worker

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At the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis marked May 1, the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, by recounting the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth and was called "the carpenter's son". Let us consider some of Pope Francis' words as we think upon our own work and those who are unable to find meaningful work: In the Gospel of St. Matthew, in one of the moments when Jesus returns to his town, to Nazareth, and speaks in the Synagogue, the amazement of his fellow townspeople at his wisdom is emphasized. They asked themselves the question: "Is not this the carpenter's son?" (13:55). Jesus comes into our history, he comes among us by being born of Mary by the power of God, but with the presence of St Joseph, the legal father who cares for him and also teaches him his trade. Jesus is born and lives in a family, in the Holy Family, learning the carpenter's craft from St Joseph in his workshop in Nazareth, sharing with him the commitment, effort, satisfaction and also the difficulties of every day.



This reminds us of the dignity and importance of work. The Book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting

it but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work (cf. Gen 1:28; 2:15). Work is part of God's loving plan, we are called to cultivate and care for all the goods of creation and in this way share in the work of creation! Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use a metaphor, "anoints" us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts (cf. Jn 5:17); it gives one the ability to maintain oneself, one's family, to contribute to the growth of one's own nation.

Today, on this Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, let us pray to God, remembering the model of Joseph.

God, give us work so that we may share our talents with others and know the dignity and satisfaction that you give us through our efforts. Give us patience while you open doors and wisdom to see your will. Keep our families in your care, and provide for all our needs. Never let stress diminish our love for each other nor our work as part of your healing ministry. In your name we pray. Amen.

## Prayer before work

Dear Lord,

Today, I offer you myself.

Come breathe your life

Into my working day.

Cause me to awake, to embrace the moment,

And to go in Your name.

Today, thank you that I can run without fear,

Serve with kindness,

And walk with You in this great adventure.

Amen.

## 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 Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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### All Men of the Fraternity of Fatherhood,

A special prayer intention to share with all our Fatherhood Family. Deacon Ray Emnace is one of our longtime Fatherhood Fraternity core members in Southern California. He has been with the Apostolate since the very beginning, over 20 years ago. Ray was ordained as a deacon this last year. His wife Sandra has been battling cancer for sometime now and she sadly has passed this last month. Please pray for the repose of her soul, and for deep rest and consolation for Deacon Ray and their two daughters.



*Eternal rest grant unto Sandra, O gracious God, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## Saints Corner - St. Joseph The Worker

### The Story of Saint Joseph the Worker

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

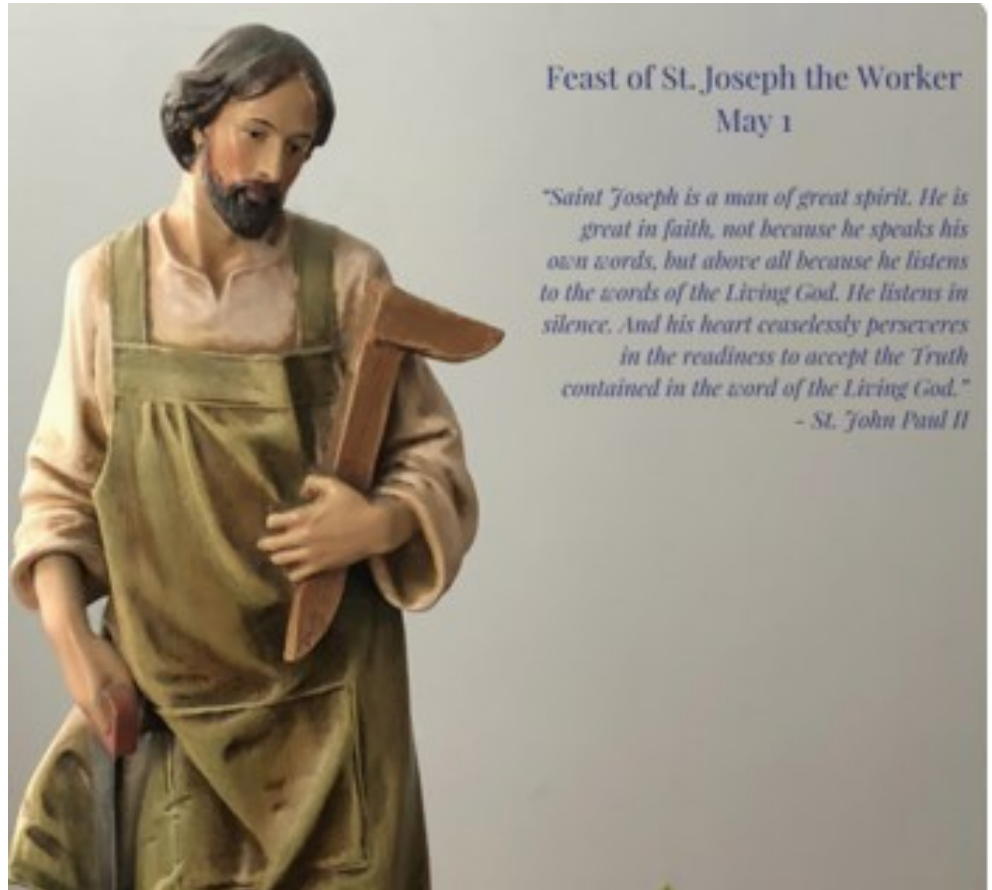
Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pius XII emphasized this when he said, "The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."

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### Reflection

To capture the devotion to Saint Joseph within the Catholic liturgy, in 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph the patron of the universal Church. In 1955, Pope Pius XII added the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. This silent saint, who was given the noble task of caring and watching over the Virgin Mary and Jesus, now cares for and watches over the Church and models for all the dignity of human work.







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Fraternity of Fatherhood

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



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.  
Feast Day March 19th**



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