

February 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. George Dunkley Worcester, MA	Rev. Jean-Paul Gagnon. Worcester, MA	Rev. Greg Downs Alexandria, LA	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Dcn. Norman Gremillion Alexandria, LA	Rev. Harold Imamshah Alexandria, LA	Rev. Silverino Kwebuza Alexandria, LA	Rev. Martin Laird Alexandria, LA	Rev. Ron Matthews Alexandria, LA	Rev. John O'Brien Alexandria, LA	Rev. John Pardue Alexandria, LA
Rev. Thomas Paul Alexandria, LA	Msgr. John Mraz Allentown, PA	Rev. George Winne Allentown, PA	Rev. John Brennan Boston, MA	Rev. Robert Carr Boston, MA	Rev. William Carroll Boston, MA	Rev. Donald Clinton Boston, MA
Rev. Volney DeRosia Boston, MA	Dcn. Paul Dow Boston, MA	Rev. Gerry Fraser Boston, MA	Rev. Christopher Gaffrey OFM Boston, MA	Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA	Dcn. Chuck Hall Boston, MA	Rev. Richard Kelley Boston, MA
Rev. John Kiley Boston, MA						

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own disposition and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (.....). Amen.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
PO Box 442
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442

Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
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VOLUME XXX ISSUE 2 JANUARY 2021

"To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..."

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Now is the Time of St. Joseph

By Fr. Greg Paffel - Minnesota Fraternity

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph"
~ APOSTOLIC LETTER, PATRIS CORDE ~

On the 150th Anniversary of St. Joseph being declared the Patron Saint of the Catholic Church (December 8, 2020) Pope Francis announced a YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH.

While the Holy Father sets this year in the context of reflecting on the pandemic of the Coronavirus, I feel compelled to also place the Year of St. Joseph in the context of a different pandemic. In agreement with Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, we need the guidance of St. Joseph in order for us to come against the deterioration of marriage and family and to help us reevangelize the world by bringing Jesus to the nations (Consecration to St. Joseph, Marian Press, 2020 p. 4). "Now is the time of St. Joseph" (Ibid, p. 1).

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation" (Patris Corde, #1).

The first part of St. Joseph's vocation is marriage. In his first dream the angel says, Joseph, son of David, do not be

afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:20 NABRE)

First he is to take Mary into his home. Joseph is to fulfill the marriage vows he made to Mary prior to the Annunciation. Mary is his wife and he is her husband.

The Roman Canon, along with the recent addition to the other three primary Eucharistic Prayers, affirm the marriage of this holy couple as being St. Joseph's most important role. After invoking the Blessed Virgin Mary, the prayers continue ". . . with blessed Joseph, her Spouse . . ." (Eucharistic Prayer II). Being Mary's spouse was St. Joseph's first obligation.

Of course, the vocation of marriage, especially among the young, assumes there will be additions to the family. Children usually come with marriage. Marriage and family go together; though they are distinct, they were meant for each other.

As the second part of his vocation, according to the angel, St. Joseph was to name the child. He had a God-given responsibility and authority over the child. When Adam gives the name "Eve" to the woman, he is beginning a

relationship with her. So too, St. Joseph's relationship with the child legally begins when he names him "Jesus." St. Joseph became the adoptive father of Jesus.

Jesus is the child of Mary by birthright. He is the child of Joseph by adoption. God the Father handpicked St. Joseph to be the earthly father of his only Begotten Son. Joseph would protect Jesus and Mary, provide for them, and teach Jesus how to be a human man.

St. Joseph was there to hold Jesus after his birth, to witness his first steps, and to hear his first words. Like any fatherly craftsman he taught him how to hold a hammer, to measure wood, and handle a handsaw. Without doubt, St. Joseph would have prepared Jesus for his BarMitzvah by training him in prayer and how to read the Torah. Jesus learned what it was to become a man from Joseph.

Other than biologically, St. Joseph was the real father of Jesus - legally, relationally, and spiritually. He was his earthly father. For all practical purposes, St. Joseph adopted Jesus as his very own.

Isn't that just like God? Through St. Joseph, He wanted humanity to adopt His Son in anticipation of God the Father adopting us as sons and daughters through Baptism, by giving us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What if St. Joseph said no? Would Mary have made it to Bethlehem to be counted in the census? Would Jesus have

Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Budget:

\$4,750.00

Actual Donations:

\$3,434.80

Budget Deficit:

\$1,315.20

Current as of
November 30, 2020.

I'm going to come clean. I find it hard writing an article for the Fraternity Newsletter each month. Trying to write something that will be applicable to priests and laypersons, as well as writing to the world-wide audience this newsletter reaches... I sometimes wonder what I could possibly say. I don't have a good sense of what's happening in the Church on a world-wide basis, I'm not current on what's coming out to the Vatican, and I know that the Newsletter is received up to a month after I write my article. Phew! It can be a struggle.

I guess I just have to write what has been striking me, my heart, my spiritual life, with the hope that it will resonate with others throughout the world. And what has been on my heart? A renewed call to conversion in my life. The primary mover (other than the Holy Spirit), has been St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

I was listening again to a talk given by Bishop Patrick Ahern about St. Thérèse called "The Saint for Me," and I was struck by how far away I have been from my dear friend Thérèse. Thérèse has been a part of my life since I was a teenager. My love affair with her has waxed and waned over the years, but she has always been there for me.

One of the most striking images I have of St. Thérèse is how she has drawn me to the Heart of the Father. Follow me here through the imagery: I see myself and Thérèse at five years old in a field of long grass and wildflowers. She is telling me that we are going to see the Father. I know my sinfulness and that I am not worthy, and so I resist, but she insists. She grabs my hand, looks me in the eye and says, "Come on! It will be so good!" She draws me to the Father and He puts us on His lap. He invites me to place my head on His Heart. Thanks to St. Thérèse, I am enveloped by the love of the Father.

This image came to me again as I

was listening to Bishop Ahern the other day. As I wept, I realized how far I have fallen. Not so much into sin (though my confessor knows the full story of that), but, rather, that I have fallen into a *functional* priesthood, instead of a priesthood of love. I had lost the love I had at first (cf. Revelation 2:4). St. Thérèse has begun to stir up that love again.

As we make our way through the unknown of a new year, I invite you to stir up that love for God again. Let the saints that you love draw you to the Heart of the Father. Reexamine your walk with the Lord. Has it become perfunctory, functional, or utilitarian? For all that, we are called to be lovers, as God is a lover. As Chris Stefanick says, "With marriage: if you remove the context of the love story, what do you have? ... A to-do list" (Revive Parishes, "Evangelization" Chapter 3: Kerygma: The Message*). If we remove the love from our relationship with God, we've lost everything!

May 2021 be a year of *falling in love AGAIN* with the God who has fallen so deeply in love with you.

Grace and Peace,



Fr. Von DeRosia

*<https://reviveparishes.com/course/evangelization-chris-stefanick/>

Editor's Note: Please send articles, comments, and photos to the our editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.



...continued from page 1

been killed by the soldiers of Herod? Would the Messiah have fulfilled the prophecy about coming out of Egypt? The questions could go on.

Thankfully, like Mary who said "Let it be done unto me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), St. Joseph said "YES!" Through his actions he proved he would do the will of God. And once he committed to it, he would never waver from loving and raising his family. No obstacle would stop him. Not the fact that there was no room in the inn, not the trek to and from Egypt, not the losing of Jesus in the temple. St. Joseph was all in.

The men of our world, our culture, our church could learn a lot from St. Joseph. If only they would understand the will of God. If only they would uphold the dignity of women, commit themselves in marriage and family, and persevere through every obstacle to hold their families together. Then our world would be a better place and our families would have a more hopeful life.

St. Joseph was the first missionary of Christ. What is a missionary? It is someone who brings Jesus to others, especially to people in other lands. St. Joseph started small, he brought Mary and Jesus to Bethlehem. And there he share his newborn son, the Son of the Living God, with the shepherds and later with the wisemen.

A bigger adventure, St. Joseph led his wife and son into Egypt. Did God want Jesus to go to Egypt just to escape from Herod? Or was there an additional reason? Isaiah 19:1 prophesied that the Lord would go to Egypt so "The idols of Egypt [would] tremble before him." There were many who worshipped false gods in Egypt. Was that the first place

Jesus cast out demons? This may be a bit speculative, but it seems worthy of consideration.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were then sent back to Israel to the area of Galilee, more specifically, they went home to Nazareth. It was the place of the Annunciation and the place of St. Joseph's workshop. In this hidden time of their family life, we are not told how Jesus interacted with others. But it seems, since he was like us in all things but sin, that he played with other children, obeyed his elders, and influenced his peers to be good.

The last journey we know Jesus took while St. Joseph was still his guardian was to Jerusalem for the Passover. After all the celebrations were concluded, when Mary and Joseph were headed for home, Jesus stayed back and taught the elders in the temple. Even at the age of twelve, Jesus was setting the stage for his future ministry and preparing the hearts of some of the scholars for the days he would heal the sick, give sight to the blind, raise the dead, cast out demons, and preach as one having authority.

Though St. Joseph was silent in all the scriptures, he was a missionary. We ought to be challenged to bring Jesus to the world anew. Do we think it is someone else's job? It is our responsibility. It is every Christian's calling. We are called to evangelize a world that has largely forgotten the power of the Gospel and the love of God.

The fact is, the world needs St. Joseph. This is the time for St. Joseph. If you are feeling nudged by the Holy Spirit in your prayers, then take more time to reflect on the role of St. Joseph in the life of the Church and call upon

him for intercession. Lets join together in prayer. This is the "Memorare to St. Joseph" as written in Fr. Calloway's book, p. 240.

Remember, O Most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your intercession. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen.

Brothers, our men need to have a role model that will teach them to be family men and to encourage them to share Jesus with others. There is no better mentor, no more worthy saint than Joseph, to lead us into a new day for Catholicism. Let's heed Pope Francis' call for the world to recognize the importance of the Patron Saint of the Catholic Church. Let's read "Consecration to St. Joseph: the Wonders of our Spiritual Father" with our parishioners.

Consider this last point, God the Father entrusted his Only Begotten Son completely to St. Joseph. Mary and Jesus totally entrusted themselves to him as well. If he was good enough for God, for Mary, and for Jesus, then he is good enough for us. Let's consecrate ourselves to St. Joseph.

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Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

