

ST. JOSEPH

IN SCRIPTURE & THEOLOGY



Tonight

1. Year of St. Joseph
2. St. Joseph in Scripture
3. Introduction to Josephology

Year of St. Joseph



MAY 1, 2013

... with Blessed Joseph her spouse ...

November 13, 1962

St. John XXIII adds the
name of St. Joseph to the
Roman Canon
(Eucharistic Prayer I)

In Eucharistic Prayer II:

... that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles ...

In Eucharistic Prayer III:

... especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs ...

In Eucharistic Prayer IV:

... with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
and with your Apostles ...

POPE FRANCIS PATRIS CORDE



ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS
PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH
Apostolic Letter

DECEMBER 8, 2020

TO

DECEMBER 8, 2021



CATHOLIC
TRUTH
SOCIETY



PUBLISHERS
TO THE
HOLY
SEE

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as “the son of Joseph”.^[1] Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a “just man” (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since “there was no place for them” elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Mt 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship.

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. Lk 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple. Of Nazareth it was said, "No prophet is to rise" (cf. Jn 7:52) and indeed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (cf. Jn 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. Lk 2:41-50).

After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church",^[2] Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers"^[3] and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer".^[4] Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "patron of a happy death".^[5]

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Mt 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how “our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all”.^[6] Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

Province of St. Joseph



The Province of St. Joseph (also known as the Eastern Province), founded in 1805, is a province of the Order of Preachers, living out the charism of St. Dominic in the Eastern United States. It is one of four provinces in the United States, the others being the Western Province of the Holy Name (founded in 1850), the Central Province of St. Albert the Great (founded in 1939), and the Southern Province of St. Martin de Porres (founded in 1979).

Joseph in Scripture

Joseph = He (God) will add / increase

7 -8 Josephs in Scripture

Patriarch Joseph: Gen 37 - 50; Ex 1:1-8; Jn 4:5; Acts 7:9, 13, 14, 18; Heb 11:21-22

Davidic Ancestry #1: Lk 3:30

Davidic Ancestor #2: Lk 3:24

Foster Father of Jesus: Mt 1:16-25; 2:13-23; 13:55; Mk 6:3; Lk 1:27; 2:4, 16, 27, 33; 3:23; 4:22; Jn 1:45; 6:42

Son of Another Mary: Mt 27:56

Joseph of Arimathea: Mt 27:57-59; Mk 15:43-45; Lk 23:50; Jn 19:38

Disciple: Acts 1:23

Barnabas: Acts 4:36

Tribe???: Rev 7:8

What do the following
passages tell us about
St. Joseph?

Infancy Narratives

IN THE GENEALOGIES IN MATTHEW & LUKE

“ . . . Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.”

-Matthew 1:16

“ . . . Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph . . . ”

-Luke 3:23

THE ANNUNCIATION TO JOSEPH

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel’ (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.”

-Matthew 1:18-25

FLIGHT TO EGYPT

“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’”

-Matthew 2:13-15

RETURN TO NAZARETH

“But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ‘Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.’ And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled. ‘He shall be called a Nazarene.’”

-Matthew 2:19-23

TO BETHLEHEM FOR THE CENSUS

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.”

-Luke 2:1-5

THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

*“And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph,
and the babe lying in a manger.”*

-Luke 2:16

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“And when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him according to the custom of the law . . . ”

-Luke 2:27

“And his father and his mother marveled at
what was said about him.”

-Luke 2:33

THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover . . . the boy stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day’s journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him . . . and his mother said to him . . . ‘Behold your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.’ And he said to them, ‘How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.”

-Luke 2:41-51

Public Ministry

PHILIP'S REACTION TO JESUS

“Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him,
‘We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote,
Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ ”

-John 1:45

REACTION TO JESUS

“Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary . . . ?”

-Mark 6:2-3

“Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?
Is not this the carpenter’s son?”

-Matthew 13:55

“And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’”

-Luke 4:22

“Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?
How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

-John 6:42

What do these passages
tell us about St. Joseph?

Introduction to Josepology

His Identity

- Faithful Jew
- Of the Line of David
- Husband of Mary
- (Foster) Father of Jesus
- Carpenter
- Hometown of Nazareth

His Qualities

- Just
- Chaste
- Obedient
- Silent
- Chosen by God

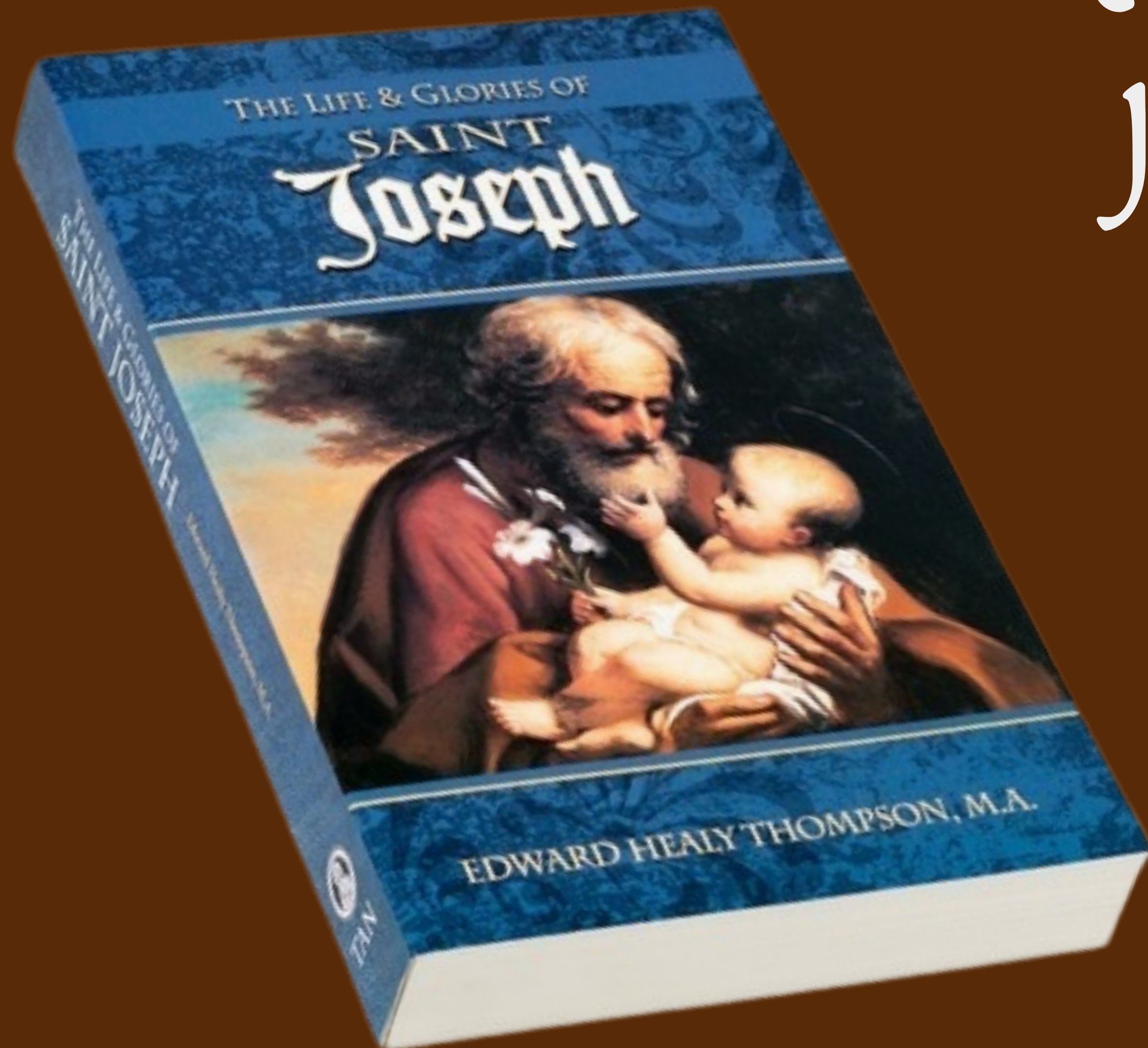
CULTURE & CONTEXT

ST. JOSEPH AND HIS WORLD



MIKE AQUILINA
with a foreword by Scott Hahn

TRADITIONAL JOSEPHOLOGY



Redemptoris Custos

August 15, 1989

JOHN PAUL II



Guardian
of the
Redeemer

ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

With Commentary by
Dr. Joseph C. Atkinson

Typology

JOSEPH & JOSEPH . . . A FORTIORI

- Father named Jacob
- Both clothed with a multi-color garment
- Just
- Chaste
- God speaks to through dreams
- Both exiled in Egypt
- Precede Moses
- Appointed Guardian of important household
- Greatly exalted
- Veneration above all other mere men
- “Go to Joseph.” -Genesis 41:55
- Sun, moon, and stars

Proportionate Grace

“To sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

-Mark 10:40



Human
Fatherhood
Reflective of
God the Father



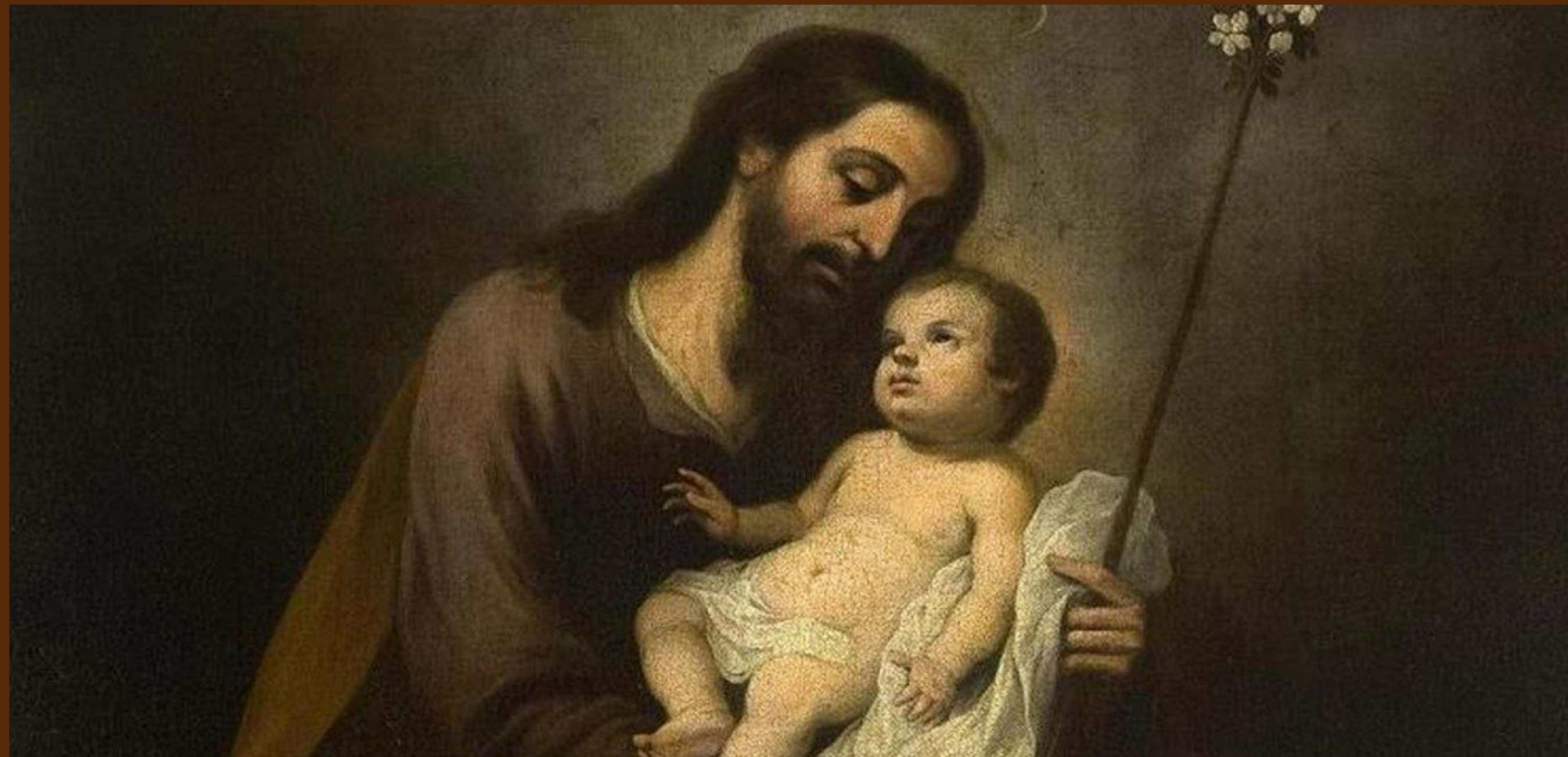
Patron of Men,
Husbands,
& Fathers





*Model of the Kind of Man
Women Should Look For*

Patron of Interior Life





Patron of Workers

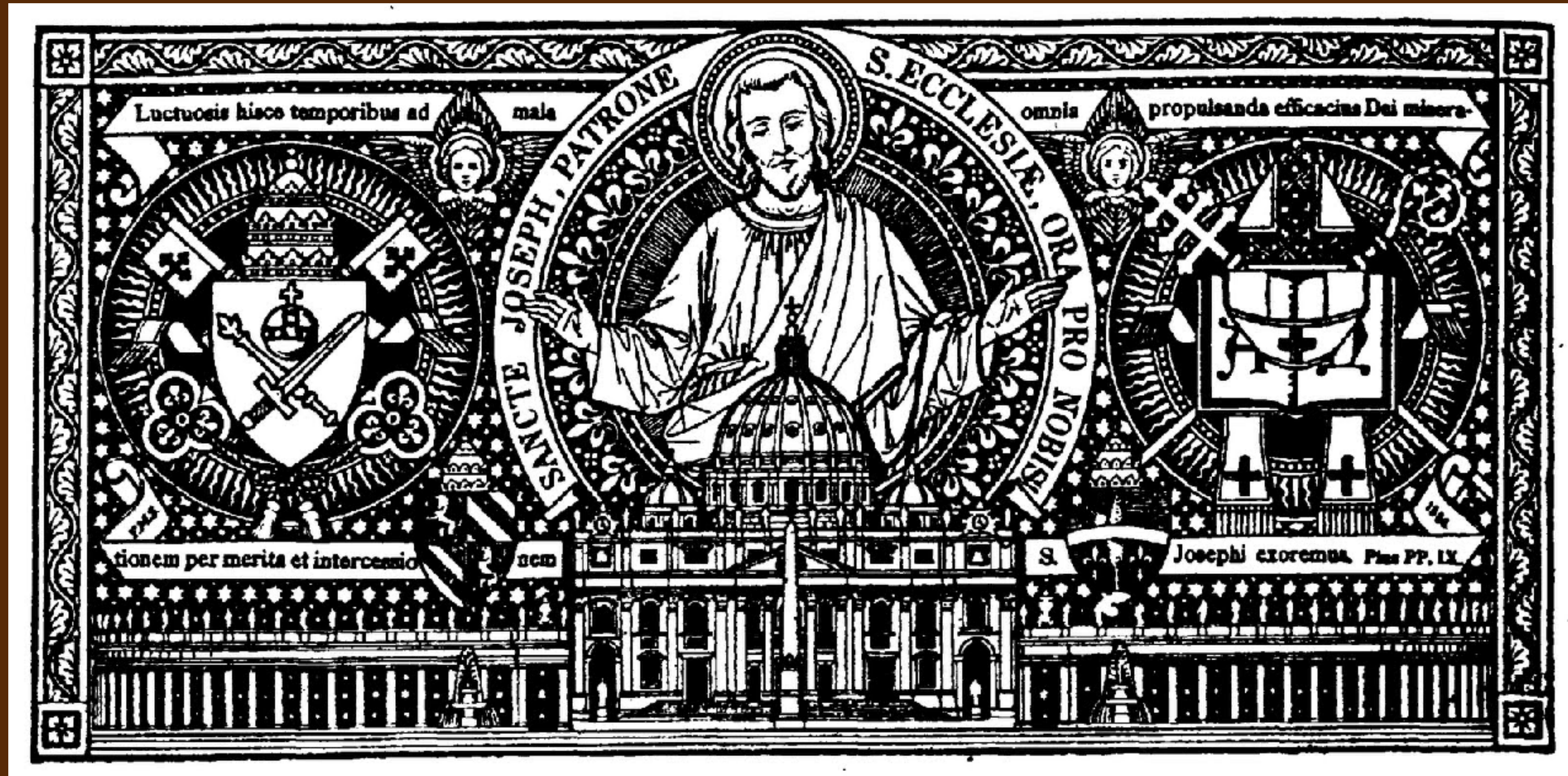
“Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men.”

-Colossians 3:23

Patron of a Happy Death



Patron of the Universal Church



December 8, 1870 - Bl. Pius IX declares St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church

Questions or Comments?

What strikes / inspires you about St. Joseph?