

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

Joseph was the husband of Mary. Since marriage is the highest degree of association and friendship, involving by its very nature a communion of goods, it follows that God, by giving Joseph to the Virgin, did not give him to her only as a companion for life, a witness of her virginity and protector of her honour; He also gave him to Mary in order that he might share, through the marriage pact, in her own sublime greatness.

Joseph was the adoptive father of Jesus. He had certainly an influence on the psychological and emotional development of the child.

Joseph prepared Jesus for adult life. Among other things which Joseph naturally taught Jesus, was his own trade.

Education of a child is the most grave obligation and the primary right of his parents. Joseph certainly must have fulfilled this obligation and right towards the child Jesus.

If Joseph was the protector of the physical and historical Christ, he must also be the protector of the Mystical Body of Christ, for we all form one body with Christ.

He is the patron of the Universal Church. In a special way, he is the patron of workers, of families, of the poor, of the dying, of the sick, and of interior life.

So, let us go to Joseph in all our needs, remembering the famous words of St Teresa of Avila: "I do not remember ever having asked anything of St Joseph that he did not grant me."

A Prayer to St Joseph:

"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to our aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that we commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. Our beloved father, all our trust is in you. Let it not be said that we invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show us that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."

Fr Patrick