

**MONTH # 8 THE FIDELITY OF SAINT JOSEPH**

**Opening Prayer:** Teach us Joseph

Teach us, Joseph,  
how not to be a protagonist,  
how to work without showing off,  
how to advance without trampling,  
how to collaborate without driving,  
how you love without claiming.

Tell us how to live  
being number two ... or three,  
how great things are done  
from a second place.  
Tell us how the vast majority  
of us have to occupy  
these places.

The second places,  
where our  
true and hidden greatness is found.  
Tell us how to live with elegance  
being not important.  
Convince us that we can be  
and must be useful, faithful, effective,  
even heroes,  
being "non- important".

Explain to us how to be great without showing off,  
how to fight without applause,  
how to progress without advertising,  
how to persevere and how to die  
without receiving  
tributes or statues of honor.

How to be helpful, positive, generous  
without needing to be "important" and even more difficult,  
how to give it all, without being the protagonist,  
and despite this, feel peace,  
deep happiness, and joy.  
Teach us, Joseph!

## *Reflections on the year of Saint Joseph*

**The grace I seek:** To appreciate the fidelity of Saint Joseph towards God and reflect on how faithful I have been to God.

**Pope Francis:** "How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From his marriage to Mary until the episode of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem at the age of twelve, he accompanies at all times with care and love." (Homily of Pope Francis March 19, 2013)

**Fr Judge:** "St. Joseph's mission was the care, the support, the maintenance of the Holy Family. He it was who must provide food and clothing and shelter for Jesus and Mary.... Amidst the sorrows and anxieties of those days of the infancy and boyhood of Him, one of whose glorious titles is Father of the Poor, looms the personality of St. Joseph. The care, the support, the maintenance of the Holy Family was his mission." (MCM 332)

**Meditation:** pause in silence (1 minute) and repeat this phrase while breathing deeply:           As I breathe in - may I be faithful to you Lord

  As I breathe out - as you are faithful to me

**Reflection:** Discovering the great fidelity that Saint Joseph offered God invites me to... in which situations is it more difficult for me to be faithful to God? Total fidelity for me means...

**Thanking God:** petitions. (Pray for the health of the sick who fight against Covid-19)

**Suggestion:** During this month, live with greater intensity the fidelity to God from the little things. Pause and constantly repeat the suggested phrase as you breathe in and breathe out.

**By the end of the day:** Ask God for the grace to live in fidelity in all areas of your life, especially in those areas where you have been tempted to infidelity.

**Final prayer:** Prayer of Pope Francis to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father

*Reflections on the year of Saint Joseph*

and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.