

MONTH # 6 JOSEPH THE WORKER

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 that I seek: To discover the value of work in Saint Joseph, equally valuing the blessing that God grants me through my job.

Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*: "Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. " (*Patris corde* 6)

Fr. Judge: "He it was who must provide food and clothing and shelter for Jesus and Mary. To accomplish this, he had in his favor brawn and an industrious disposition. He was highly skilled in his craft and he had a zealous interest in his charge. He had trade difficulties to meet and overcome... the sorrows and trials, the disappointments and weariness of the working man, the provider and head of a family, were all his. " (MCM 238)

Meditation: pause in silence (1 minute) and repeat this phrase when breathing deeply: As I breathe in - with the blessing of my job

As I breathe out – I collaborate in God's creation

Reflection: The attitude towards work that characterized Saint Joseph invites me to..., how do you value and give thanks for having a job? How can you glorify God through your job?

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

Suggestion: During this month, give special thanks to God for your job, and if you have the opportunity to do so, hire others or help them get a job. Pause and constantly repeat the suggested phrase when breathing in and breathing out.

By the end of the day: Ask God for the grace to appreciate that you have a job while so many people have lost it.

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;

Reflections on the year of Saint Joseph

in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.