

**MONTH # 12 THE CUSTODY 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 that I seek:** Learn from the example of Saint Joseph in the loving care of people God entrusts me.

**Pope Francis:** "Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly." (Homily of Pope Francis March 19, 2013)

**P. Judge:** "St. Joseph's joys and sorrows-they were many, but oh, grace of graces, my dear children of the Cenacle, think of it-you are his joy today; for he knows that in you he has children who are whole-souledly sacrificing themselves for the love and cause of his Jesus and Mary. You are to him all that the good and generous and kind were to him when, for the sake of Jesus and Mary on earth, he sought help or service or kindness. "(MCM 332)

**Meditation:** pause in silence (1 minute) and repeat this phrase when breathing deeply: As I breathe in - that I know how to care for what

God entrusts me

As I breathe out – following the example of Saint Joseph

**Reflection:** Discovering how Saint Joseph cared for what God entrusted him invites me to... Of what God has entrusted me, what should I care for better? Of all the virtues of Saint Joseph, which one do I want to learn more?

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

**Suggestion:** During this month spend more time reflecting on the life of Saint Joseph 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 learn to care as Saint Joseph did.

**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.

*Reflections on the year of Saint Joseph*

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.