

Saint Joseph, with the love and generosity with which he guarded Jesus, so too will he guard your soul, and as he defended him from Herod, so will he defend your soul from the fiercest Herod: the devil! All the care that the Patriarch St. Joseph has for Jesus, he has for you and will always help you with his patronage. He will free you from the persecution of the wicked and proud Herod, and will not allow your heart to be estranged from Jesus. *Ite ad Ioseph!* Go to Joseph with extreme confidence, because I do not remember having asked anything from St. Joseph, without having obtained it readily.<sup>18</sup>

— St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Your name, Joseph, is the joy of heaven, the honor of earth, and the comfort of mortals. Your name invigorates the weak, comforts the afflicted, heals the sick, softens hardened hearts, helps us in temptation, frees us from the snares of the devil, obtains every gift, and shares in the power of the holy names of Jesus and Mary.<sup>19</sup>

— Blessed Bartolo Longo

Saint Joseph, Terror of Demons, pray for us!

## Privileges of Devotion to St. Joseph

Love St. Joseph a lot. Love him with all your soul, because he, together with Jesus, is the person who has most loved our Blessed Lady and been closest to God. He is the person who has most loved God, after our Mother. He deserves your affection, and it will do you good to get to know him, because he is the Master of the interior life, and has great power before the Lord and before the Mother of God.<sup>1</sup>

— St. Josemaría Escrivá

**J**esus wants you to love St. Joseph. Our Lady wants you to love St. Joseph. They both want this so that your virtue and holiness may increase. No matter what your vocation or state in life may be, you will be blessed if you maintain a fervent devotion to St. Joseph. The privileges of devotion to St. Joseph are tremendous, and they are yours for the taking!

Devotion to St. Joseph is powerful because he gives his protection, his example, and his blessing.<sup>2</sup>

— St. George Preca

Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph loved St. Joseph and received extraordinary graces from heaven because of her reliance on his intercession. Anna Maria Tauscher van den Bosch (her name before she entered religious life) was born in Germany in 1855. She was raised in a staunchly Protestant family, and her father was a Lutheran minister. Over time, Anna Maria fell in love with the teachings of Catholicism and made it known to her father that she wanted to become a Catholic. Her father was not happy with her decision at all, telling her that he was ashamed of her for abandoning her Protestant upbringing. He didn't even want her living in his house anymore.

On one occasion, when she was living on her own but before she was yet a Catholic, her father visited her in an attempt to dissuade her from joining the Catholic Church. On that visit, he discovered a book on St. Joseph in her room. After a quick look at the book, he put it down, and later that night at dinner, he ridiculed and mocked St. Joseph in front of his daughter. In her autobiography, Anna Maria recounts the event. She writes:

During the dinner my father said: "How can anyone pray to such an outlandish man?" This expression, "outlandish" or "foreign" made a deep impression on me. I thought more and more of St. Joseph, and I conceived such a great, tender devotion to dear Father St. Joseph, as I called him, that I thought I ought to make reparation for the coldness of all unbelievers toward him.<sup>3</sup>

After converting to Catholicism, Anna Maria's supervisor at work, a Lutheran, fired her because she had become a Catholic. He was so mean that after he had fired her, he continued to speak ill of her to others so that she was unable to find work anywhere. As a result, Anna Maria had no money and no place to live. Her great love for St. Joseph was not diminished, though. She daily sought comfort in the love of her Father St. Joseph. Eventually, she was given permission to move into an Augustinian convent and do menial tasks as a way of paying for her room and meals. She wrote:

The recollection of my father asking how anyone could pray to such an "outlandish" person sank deep into my heart, and out of it came a great love for him [St. Joseph] and also a great trust in him. I entrusted myself more and more to his paternal care, and many times did St. Joseph prove his solicitude for me.<sup>4</sup>

Anna Maria eventually became a nun, taking the name Sr. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph. In time, she would found a new religious

Spiritual Father

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and proud Herod,  
from Jesus. *Ite*  
because I do  
Joseph, without

— St. Pio of Pietrelcina

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hearts, helps  
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names of Jesus

— Blessed Bartolo Longo

pray for us!

## St. Joseph

soul, because he,  
loved our Blessed  
person who has most  
affection, and it  
he is the Master of  
the Lord and before

— St. Josemaría Escrivá

Lady wants you to love  
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he gives his protec-

— St. George Preca

community, the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. She would also establish charitable institutes around the world. For the remainder of her life, she always referred to St. Joseph as “Father St. Joseph.” She attributed everything she was able to accomplish to the intercession of St. Joseph, her spiritual father. Pope Benedict XVI beatified her in 2006.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Venerable Mary of Ágreda wrote about the extraordinary graces God gives to those who are devoted to St. Joseph. Venerable Mary of Ágreda was a mystic and the acclaimed author of a work detailing the life of the Virgin Mary, titled *The Mystical City of God*. Her work is truly a devotional masterpiece. In the book, she wrote extensively about St. Joseph and was given many insights into the blessings that await those who are devoted to St. Joseph. She wrote:

I have been informed concerning certain privileges conferred upon St. Joseph by the Most High on account of his great holiness, which are especially important to those who ask his intercession in a proper manner. In virtue of these special privileges the intercession of St. Joseph is most powerful:

First, for attaining the virtue of purity and overcoming the sensual inclinations of the flesh;

Second, for procuring powerful help to escape sin and return to the friendship of God;

Third, for increasing the love and devotion to most holy Mary;

Fourth, for securing the grace of a happy death and protection against the demons in that hour;

Fifth, for filling the demons with terror at the mere mention of his name by his clients;

Sixth, for gaining health of body and assistance in all kinds of difficulties;

Seventh, for securing issue of children in families.

These and many other favors God confers upon those who properly and with good disposition seek the intercession of the spouse of our Queen, St. Joseph. I beseech all the faithful children of the Church to be very devoted to him and they will experience these favors in reality, if they dispose themselves as they should in order to receive and merit them.<sup>5</sup>

The seven privileges of devotion to St. Joseph are stupendous! Venerable Mary of Ágreda heard Our Lady herself speak about them, saying:

My daughter, although thou hast described my spouse, St. Joseph, as the most noble among the princes and saints of the heavenly Jerusalem; yet neither canst thou properly manifest his eminent sanctity, nor can any of the mortals know it fully before they arrive at the vision of the Divinity. Then all of them will be filled with wonder and praise as the Lord will make them capable of understanding. On the last day, when all men shall be judged, the damned will bitterly bewail their sins, which prevented them from appreciating this powerful means of their salvation, and availing themselves, as they easily could have, of this intercessor to gain the friendship of the just Judge. The whole human race has much undervalued the privileges and prerogatives conceded to my blessed spouse and they know not what his intercession with God is able to do.

That which my spouse asks of the Lord in heaven is granted upon the earth and on his intercession depend many and extraordinary favors for men, if they do not make themselves unworthy of receiving them. All these privileges were to be a reward for the amiable perfection of this wonderful saint and for his great virtues, for divine clemency is favorably drawn forth by them and looks upon St. Joseph with generous liberality, ready to shower down its marvelous mercies upon all those who avail themselves of his intercession.<sup>6</sup>

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Blessed Concepción Cabrera de Armida, a famed mystic from Mexico, wrote meditations for the purpose of instructing and inspiring the faithful. In one meditation, Blessed Concepción offered a perspective on the importance of devotion to St. Joseph, placing the following words on the lips of Our Lady:

Love him [St. Joseph], my child, and make him much loved. If you seek to please me, you cannot do anything that makes me happier than to have a filial devotion to him, to give him honor in your home, and to imitate his virtues. Take him as the patron of your interior and spiritual life, and you will advance greatly towards perfection.<sup>7</sup>

**“He that is the lesser among  
he is the greater.”**

In the most troubling situation in which the Church finds herself, the first exercised in the Holy Family