

God would not have given the most holy Virgin to Joseph as his wife unless he had been holy and righteous. What right-minded father would ever give his most beloved daughter in marriage to a man who was not moral and beyond reproach according to his rank and state in life?⁸

— St. Lawrence of Brindisi

So what are you to gain from this wonder of St. Joseph? Are you required to believe that St. Joseph was young? No, you are not. But do you understand, at least based on the physical demands his mission would have inevitably placed on him, why it makes more sense that St. Joseph was young rather than old when he married Our Lady? Regardless of which depiction of St. Joseph you prefer, know that St. Joseph is your loving, strong, and fearless spiritual father. Thank him for all that he did out of selfless love for Jesus and your spiritual mother, Mary. Thank him for all that he does for love of you.

I thank you, O holy patriarch Joseph, because we who are incapable of even knowing how to love Jesus and our Immaculate Mother, know and rejoice that you at least loved her as she deserved to be loved, the worthy and true Mother of Jesus.⁹

— Blessed Gabriele Allegra

The Consecrated Knight

Saint Joseph sweetly and continuously stimulates us to love, serve, and imitate the Queen of his heart, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus.¹

— Blessed Gabriele Allegra

Saint Joseph is the most Marian of all saints. His love for Mary is greater than that of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. John Paul II combined. There has never been a greater Marian saint than St. Joseph, and there never will be.

Saint Joseph is the model for total consecration to Mary. Long before Calvary, when Jesus commanded all of his disciples to take Mary into their hearts and homes (see Jn 19:26-27), St. Joseph had already taken Mary into his heart and into his home. She is his heart; she is his home. Everything he did was done for Jesus and Mary. He lived and died for Jesus and Mary.

Like Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home.²

— Pope Benedict XVI

Saint Joseph is the first human person to have been totally consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you were to ask Our Lady who is the one human person in all of Christianity who has loved her most, been the most devoted to her, and served her most faithfully, she would undoubtedly point to St. Joseph. He is the prototype, blueprint, and model for how to live a life of total consecration to Mary.

The various forms of Marian consecration promoted by saints down through the centuries — for example, those of St. Louis de Montfort, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Servant of God Joseph Kentenich, and others — all find their fulfillment and perfection in the person of St. Joseph.

Saint Louis de Montfort's program of Marian consecration teaches people to be slaves of Jesus and Mary; Blessed William Joseph Chaminade teaches people to act as the heel of Mary, crushing the head of Satan; the Servant of God Joseph Kentenich instructs people to become an "apparition" of Mary; and St. Maximilian Kolbe's method of Marian consecration instructs people to be the property of Mary. All of these forms are wonderful ways of describing the one fundamental dimension of all Marian consecration: *Be another Joseph for Mary.*

All the great Marian movements (the Militia Immaculatae, Schoenstatt, the Legion of Mary, the former Blue Army [now called the World Apostolate of Fatima], and so many others), have Marian chivalry at their core. To be chivalrous toward Mary is to be on the path of sainthood. A person who is chivalrous is noble, well-mannered, courageous in battle, and a refuge for the weak. Saint Joseph is the most chivalrous of all Christians, and he teaches us that everyone, including women and children, can be spiritual knights of the Queen of Heaven. He is, in fact, the first consecrated knight of the Holy Queen.

For centuries, Christians have referred to the Virgin Mary as "Our Lady." It's a term that acknowledges the great love, respect, honor, and reverence that is owed to Mary. It is a term that bespeaks chivalry. It should come as no surprise, then, that St. Joseph is the first man to speak of Mary as his lady. Mary is St. Joseph's woman. Before her feminine wonder and beauty, he bows in loving reverence. His mission is to have all hearts bow before her in love. For this reason, St. Joseph is the greatest knight of Our Lady.

During the Middle Ages, there were many stories and legends of knights traveling far and wide on heroic quests in search of the Holy Grail, the chalice that held the Blood of Jesus at the Last Supper. During the age of chivalry, no one but the priest drank the Blood of Jesus from the chalice at Mass. For this reason, as well as many others, the stories tell us that knights set out on quests in search of the lost Holy Grail, believing that if they drank from the chalice, they would be given eternal life. Their heroic quests were noble and well-intentioned, but unnecessary. All Catholics in a state of grace who receive the Body of Christ at Mass are assured everlasting life, even if they don't drink from the chalice; they must, however, remain in a state of grace, observe the 10 Commandments, and obey the teachings of the Church. The storied quests of the medieval knights were unnecessary for another reason as well. All they had to do in order to find the true chalice of our Lord's Precious Blood was to look to St. Joseph, the first and greatest knight of Our Lady! He knows where to find the living chalice containing the life-giving blood of Jesus Christ. The Holy Grail that St. Joseph possesses has not been lost. Saint Joseph stands ready to give this chalice to all his spiritual children.

What St. Joseph teaches his children is that the Virgin Mary is the Holy Grail! She is what every Christian knight seeks. Unlike the chalice used at the Last Supper, this vessel has not been lost. Mary, the Holy Grail, is easily found. Those who find her find Jesus because those who find her find Catholicism and its greatest treasure, Jesus in Holy Communion. Mary desires to lead all souls to Holy Mass where they can receive the Lamb of God and attain eternal life. All who imitate St. Joseph will discover Mary and the saving mystery of Holy Mass.

Mary, my mother, Joseph, my father, give me your eyes to contemplate Jesus; give me your hearts and spirits to understand him, and to be impassioned for him.³

— Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận

From heaven, St. Joseph continues his quest to lead all souls to Jesus through Mary. From heaven, he looks for souls who are willing to be knights of the Holy Queen. He desires to raise up loving defenders and heroic champions of Jesus, Mary, and the Catholic faith. He wants men, women, children, priests, and nuns who will serve Mary and lead others to the Kingdom of Heaven. Valiant souls are needed today, Joseph-like souls, who zealously strive to lead others to the fountain of everlasting life.

To Jesus through Mary and St. Joseph!

He [St. Joseph] always favors with especial protection those souls who are enrolled beneath the standard of Mary!⁴

— St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi

When the Holy Virgin and St. Joseph intercede together it is very powerful!⁵

— St. André Bessette

Grant that according to your example [St. Joseph] we may keep our eyes fixed on our mother Mary, your most sweet spouse.⁶

— Venerable Pope Pius XII