

THE VIRTUE OF OBEDIENCE IN YOU. You
heavenly visions given to St. Faustina
message and devotion. Did you know
of St. Joseph? Saint Faustina loved
generally turned to him for his powerful
to her do the will of God and be faithful
to God's mercy. With the help
able to complete her mission and be
when they sent her for a psychological

only for nuns and priests, though.
natural and divine law. Obey-
of the Catholic Church,
and Holy Days of Obligation,
sin are all ways of show-

the natural law as well.
between one man
protecting children in
compromisingly pro-
law. Resisting the
the natural
offer for your trust
far from the

Spirit
Paul II

DAY 21

Joseph Most Faithful, Pray for Us

The Church admires the simplicity and the depth of his [St. Joseph's] faith.¹

— St. John Paul II

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen spoke of three rings in marriage: the engagement ring, the wedding ring, and the suffering. Those who are married know this to be true. Marriage is not easy. It begins with a honeymoon and will be filled with many hardships, difficulties, and trials. For a marriage to work, mutual love, sacrifice, and faithfulness are necessary.

A Christian's relationship with God is a spiritual marriage. It, too, requires mutual love, sacrifice, and faithfulness. Those who are spiritually espoused to God need to be faithful in good times and in bad, in health and in sickness, in riches and in poverty. Saint Joseph was always faithful to his wife and to God.

SAINT JOSEPH IS A MODEL OF FAITH. Faith is one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity). But what exactly is faith? How is it defined? The Letter to the Hebrews gives us a good definition. It states: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). Christian faith acknowledges who Jesus is, adheres to his teaching, and trusts in his promises.

Joseph was deeply pious; he prayed much for the coming of the Messiah.²

— Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

A Christian is called to have faith in Jesus *and* trust in him. Acknowledging who Jesus is just is not enough. Demons acknowledge who Jesus is (see Mt 8:29; Mk 5:7; Lk 8:28), but they don't love or trust him. Saint Joseph, on the other hand, is a model of faith *and* trust. He knows who Jesus is and trusts in him. Saint Joseph held fast to Jesus' words even when his mind and senses were unable to completely understand what Jesus meant. Saint Joseph exercised an active, trusting, and zealous faith.

Saint Joseph never doubted the divinity of Jesus or his power to conquer evil. To the world, Jesus looked like an ordinary child, but St. Joseph knew he was God. He adored our Lord in the cradle, in the home in Nazareth, in the Temple in Jerusalem, and as a grown man in his workshop. Saint Joseph was always aware that, in seeing Jesus, he was gazing upon God Almighty.

Saint Joseph was faithful to Jesus in good times and in bad (at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and when Jesus was lost in the Temple in Jerusalem). Saint Joseph was faithful to Jesus in health and in sickness (teaching Jesus to be a good carpenter and dying in the arms of Jesus). Saint Joseph was faithful to Jesus in riches and in poverty (when gold was given to Jesus by the Magi, and when the gold ran out and they lived in poverty in Egypt).

SAINTE JOSEPH WILL INCREASE YOUR FAITH. Today, it is not easy to be faithful to Jesus. The world does not want you to trust Jesus, hope in his promises, or love him. If you live according to the teachings of Jesus, you will be ridiculed and mocked by the world, and maybe even by your family and friends. Should you endure exile and isolation out of love for Jesus, he is worth it. Should you suffer financial loss out of love for the truth, God will reward you. If you are belittled, spoken ill of, and calumniated because of your stance against abortion, homosexual “marriage,” and contraception, your reward will be great in heaven.

Imitate the faith and loving trust of St. Joseph. Be steadfast, trusting, and intrepid in your faith.

It is precisely the intrepid faith of St. Joseph that the Church needs today in order to courageously dedicate herself to the urgent task of the new evangelization.³

— St. John Paul II

Read “Adorer of Christ” (page 172)
Pray the Litany of St. Joseph (page 233)