

seph: in his way of working,  
his way of speaking. Jesus'  
e sat at table and broke bread,  
uations to give doctrine — all  
fluence of Joseph.

blime mystery: Jesus who is  
f a particular district of Israel,  
seph, is the Son of God. And  
he is also truly man and lives  
as a boy helping in Joseph's  
in the prime of life. "Jesus  
grace before God and men"

aster in their daily contact, full  
himself to take better care of  
r us to consider this just man,  
faith of the old covenant bears  
te? Interior life is nothing but  
with Christ, so as to become  
all us many things about Jesus.  
to him — *Ite ad Ioseph*: "Go  
hon puts it in the words of the

worker deeply involved in his job,  
act with Jesus: that is Joseph. *Ite*  
Christian learns what it means to  
one's place among men, sanc-  
Joseph and you will find Jesus.  
and Mary, who always sheds peace  
in Nazareth.<sup>1</sup>

## WONDER 7

### ADORER OF CHRIST

What a sublime vision to have the Son of God ever before his [St. Joseph's] eyes! Ecstasy most rare! Rapture most marvelous!

— Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

### Perpetual Adoration

Although he [St. Joseph] never adored our Lord under the Eucharistic species and never had the happiness of communicating [receiving Holy Communion], he did possess and adore Jesus in human form.<sup>1</sup>

— St. Peter Julian Eymard

**I**f St. Joseph lived with Jesus for 30 years, his vocation was one of perpetual adoration. In many ways, the home of the Holy Family in Nazareth was the first Christian monastery.

Saint Peter Julian Eymard wrote an amazing book called *The Month of St. Joseph* that offers incredible insights on St. Joseph's life of prayer and adoration in Nazareth. It's a masterpiece.

Here's an excerpt from St. Peter Julian Eymard's book:

Saint Joseph was the first adorer, the first religious. Although he never adored our Lord under the Eucharistic species and never had the happiness of communicating [receiving Holy Communion], he did possess and adore Jesus in human form.

Saint Joseph knew our Lord more thoroughly than did all the saints together; he lived for him alone. In that lies his special glory, the keynote of his sanctity. In that, above all, he is our model, and in that too does his incomparable greatness consist.

When we see how close Joseph came to Jesus, how thoroughly he was transformed into him, we grasp his true greatness, his real sanctity. We find in him [St. Joseph], the perfect adorer, entirely consecrated to Jesus, working always near Jesus, giving Jesus his virtues, his time, his very life; it is thus that he is our model and our inspiration.

As foster-father of Jesus and husband of Mary, Joseph ranks among the elite of heaven. On earth he deserves the same recog-

nition, for his mission, which will last as long as the Church itself, draws everyone within its scope. As adorers we have a right to a large share of his graces and protection, and careful study will show that all his special gifts aimed at making him a good adorer.

From his [Jesus'] entry into the world, even while still enclosed in Mary's womb as in a living ciborium, Jesus singled out Mary and Joseph to be his adorers. Joseph responded royally. He never ceased adoring Jesus in her womb. And after the child's birth at Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary adored him uninterruptedly as he lay before their eyes. They represented all mankind at the feet of Christ. Certainly Adam and Eve were well replaced!

At Nazareth Joseph's days were filled with work which [by] necessity took him away at times from his Infant God. During these hours Mary replaced him, but when evening brought him home again, he would pass the entire night in adoration, never tiring, only too happy for the chance to contemplate the hidden riches of Jesus' divinity. For he pierced the rough garments the child wore, until his faith touched the Sacred Heart. In profound adoration he united himself to the special grace of each one of the events in the life of Jesus. Have confidence, strong confidence in him [St. Joseph]. Take him as the patron and the model of your life of adoration.<sup>2</sup>

Saint Peter Julian Eymard is known as the "Apostle of the Eucharist." He was zealous in promoting Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Peter Julian founded two religious communities to promote Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for men, and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women.

When we receive Holy Communion, let us consider that Jesus comes to us as a little baby, and then let us pray that St. Joseph helps us welcome him, as when he held him in his arms.<sup>3</sup>

— St. Joseph Marelllo

## Adorer of Christ

How many times did he [St. Joseph], like the lone sparrow, nestle on the roof of that holy temple of the divinity, contemplating this divine Child sleeping in his arms, and thinking of his eternal repose in the bosom of the heavenly Father?<sup>1</sup>

— Blessed William Joseph Chaminade