

ter, Jesus knew this firsthand. He living by the sweat of their brow.

e burdened, and I will give you learn from me, for I am meek find rest for your souls. For my nt.

— Mt 11:28-30

HOW TO BE A DILIGENT WORKER.

or for many years before initiating it? He did it because he wanted work is honorable and pleasing or St. Joseph were workaholics. themselves, the family, or society. ic.

e of work in his life through the Joseph made time for God, family, odeled these aspects of human life ou these important lessons as well.

model workman for the imitation of souls, especially deacons, priests, ed souls are to work diligently and work, too, can be difficult and bur-

secrated religious are human; they anyone else. On rare occasions, God person to perform heroic penances,

er. God never desires for his workers sion. He wants them to take delight ed baskets. He wants priests and nuns sion, prayerful, hard-working, and not

...for our Lord.³
— St. Peter Julian Eymard
(p. 217)
(p. 23)

DAY 25

Glory of Domestic Life, *Pray for Us*

Joseph loved Jesus as a father loves his son and showed his love by giving him the best he had.¹

— St. Josemaría Escrivá

In the 16th century, St. Teresa of Avila helped reform the female branch of the Carmelite Order. She had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph and named the majority of her reformed convents after him. To protect the convents (and the nuns in them), she buried medals of St. Joseph around the convents as a sign that they belonged to God and St. Joseph. In the 20th century, St. André Bessette did something similar.

Saint André wanted to erect a shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in Montreal, Canada. He found the perfect location and placed medals of St. Joseph around the property as a way of asking St. Joseph to bless and obtain the property. Needless to say, he got it!

SAINT JOSEPH WANTS TO BLESS YOUR HOME. If you lovingly welcome St. Joseph into your home, invoke his intercession, and honor him in pious devotions, he will greatly bless your domestic life. Wherever St. Joseph is present, Jesus and Mary are present as well.

Saint Joseph wants to be in your home and present in your family life. Even if you move, he wants to go with you. Speaking of moving, let me quickly say something about a practice that concerns me: There is no need for you to bury a statue of St. Joseph to sell your house. Burying a statue of St. Joseph in an effort to sell a home is a modern phenomenon. Saint Teresa of Avila and St. André Bessette never buried statues of St. Joseph. Statues, unlike medals, are not made to be buried. Statues represent a person, and are meant to be venerated *above ground*, not buried in the ground. Place a statue of St. Joseph inside your home and pray to St. Joseph frequently for your domestic needs, including the selling of your home. Do not bury a statue of St. Joseph in your yard.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a

bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

— Mt 5:14-15

Whatever you do, never bury a statue of St. Joseph upside down. People sometimes do this bizarre practice as a form of spiritual bribery, promising to turn the statue of St. Joseph right side up only if their home is sold. Such a practice is akin to treating a statue of St. Joseph as a talisman or a good luck charm. Saint Joseph is your spiritual father, not a trinket. There's no need to bury a statue of him. Talk to him; he hears you.

SAINT JOSEPH LOVES DOMESTIC LIFE. Saint Joseph is the saint of the hidden years of Jesus. This reality is incredible to ponder. Consider your own memories of living at home: family outings, birthdays, religious celebrations, playing together, singing, etc. Most likely, you only lived in the house of your parents for 20 years or so. Our Lord, however, lived with Mary and St. Joseph for 30 years. The love, intimacy, and familiarity Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph shared is amazing! Saint Joseph knew what Jesus' walk sounded like. He knew the sound of Jesus' sneeze, laughter, and voice raised in song. He knew Jesus' mannerisms, morning routine, posture, smile, yawn, and favorite food and drink. These are treasured memories that reside deep in the heart and mind of St. Joseph.

Jesus and Mary themselves obey and offer their homage to Joseph, for they reverence what the hand of God has established in him, namely, the authority of spouse and the authority of father.²

— Pope Pius XI

Read "Saint Joseph's Workshop" (page 169)
Pray the Litany of St. Joseph (page 233)