

stand, where it gives light to all

— Mt 5:14-15

ry a statue of St. Joseph upside
zarre practice as a form of spiritual
ue of St. Joseph right side up only
tice is akin to treating a statue of
l luck charm. Saint Joseph is your
e's no need to bury a statue of him.

IFE. Saint Joseph is the saint of the
y is incredible to ponder. Consider
home: family outings, birthdays,
together, singing, etc. Most likely,
our parents for 20 years or so. Our
y and St. Joseph for 30 years. The
Mary, and St. Joseph shared is
e's tread' walk sounded like. He knew
and voice raised in song. He
posture, smile, yawn, and
measured memories that reside

enter their homage to
God has established
and the authority of

— Pope Pius XI

DAY 26

Guardian of Virgins, Pray for Us

I prayed to St. Joseph to watch over me. From my childhood, my devotion to him was mingled with my love for the Blessed Virgin. Each day I recited the prayer, "O Saint Joseph, father and protector of virgins." It seemed to me that I was well protected and completely sheltered from every danger.¹

— St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Joseph has a special love for those consecrated to God through religious vows. Saint Joseph loves everyone, of course, but he has a special place in his heart for virgins. A virgin himself, St. Joseph knows firsthand the intimacy that a virgin is capable of having with God. Saint Joseph lived for 30 years with the two greatest virgins to ever grace this planet: Jesus and Mary. Virginity is a treasure. It is a treasure that St. Joseph guards and wants others to know about.

REMEMBER ST. JOSEPH! Many people know the *Memorare* prayer to the Virgin Mary. What many people don't know about is the *Memorare* to St. Joseph. It's almost identical to the Marian *Memorare*. The *Memorare* to St. Joseph goes like this:

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your protection. O foster father of the Redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen.

Saint Faustina's religious community, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, recite the *Memorare* to St. Joseph every day. Saint Faustina herself had a tremendous devotion to St. Joseph and daily asked his intercession for her vocation and mission. She wrote:

Saint Joseph urged me to have a constant devotion to him. He himself told me to recite three prayers [the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be] and the *Memorare* [to St. Joseph] once every day. He looked at me with great kindness and gave me to know how much he is supporting this work [of mercy]. He

has promised me this special help and protection. I recite the requested prayers every day and feel his special protection.²

SAINT JOSEPH WILL HELP YOU BE A GUARDIAN OF VIRGINITY AND PURITY. If you maintain a daily loving relationship with St. Joseph, your eyes, intentions, heart, and relationships can be pleasing to God and free of anything that goes against purity. If you walk with St. Joseph, you will find less and less pleasure in filthy and perverse films. Such "entertainment" will repulse your soul. Music that is foul, degrading to women, and offensive to God will not appeal to you either. This doesn't mean you must only listen to Christian music or watch Christian movies, but it does mean that you will know light from darkness.

Everyone is going to be tempted to sin against purity — some more than others. In St. Joseph, everyone has a guardian and a protector. Turn to him in times of temptation and you will grow in innocence and purity. Frequently ask his intercession to keep your heart pure and chaste.

I have taken for my advocate and protector, the glorious St. Joseph, to whom I have recommended myself with all the fervor of my heart, and by whom I have been visibly aided. This tender father of my soul, this loving protector hastened to snatch me from the wretched state in which my body languished, as he had delivered me from greater dangers of another nature, which threatened my honor and my eternal salvation.³

— St. Teresa of Avila

I beg the great St. Joseph, in whom I have a very great confidence, to come to my aid.⁴

— St. Elizabeth of the Trinity

Read "A Miraculous Staircase in New Mexico" (page 189)
Pray the Litany of St. Joseph (page 233)