

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER

(Excerpt from the Act of Consecration to Saint Joseph, WAF in Koclíroc, Czech Republic)

May we - by the intercession of Saint Joseph – receive a powerful blow of the pandemic heal. May people repent of their sins and turn to God; may the spiritual people, led by the Holy Spirit, be burned with virtues for the Kingdom of God. May our consciousness of our dependence on God be restored and our sincere gratitude revived for the gifts that the Lord offers us today and always. May the relationships be healed in public life, in politics and in society; may our families and our family relationships be renewed and sanctified; may people rediscover, through the sacrament of marriage, the noble beauty of the Originator of all being, goodness and love.

Before God we surrender to You today, we ask for Your constant intercession with the Lord, for protection and help in our vocation, in carrying the crosses of life, in abandonment, disease, old age and at the hour of our death.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH, PATRON SAINT OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

(Prof. Américo López-Ortiz)

Dearest Saint Joseph, Putative Father of Jesus, Chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you have a unique honored place before God's throne. Pope Pius IX declared you Patron Saint of the Universal Church in 1870. How much do we know of your life?

We know few details of St. Joseph's life. It should suffice the details revealed by the Gospel of Jesus to infer the incomparable gift granted to you of ANONYMOUS SERVER OF GOD. Dearest Saint Joseph, in your devoted, valiant and laborious life as a carpenter, you developed with God's grace and mercy, an interior life capable of fulfilling the greatest of all achievements: The offering of the sacrifices demanded by the sanctification of your daily duties, accepting with submission the suffering permitted by God's will.

The greatest achievement, the masterpiece, is that of carving one's life through renunciation, sacrifice, bearing the cross everyday of our lives. To bear the weight of our existence; existence that according to Saint Paul is a burden and oppression. So, although we may not find great signs or prodigies in our carpenter's life, we must admire much more his trust in God to accept God's will at all costs. St. Joseph lived in perfect chastity to be the custodian of the Redeemer of mankind, sharing with the Blessed Mother Mary, the responsibility to take care, protect, teach and raise the Son of God made flesh.

Saint Joseph, you explained Saint Mary's pregnancy with the eyes of faith, understanding that the fruit of her womb was the action of the Holy Spirit. Who can portray as Saint Joseph the importance of faith as support and fortress, as refuge and consolation in times of need? Saint Joseph is the faithful observer of the Law that travels to register in the census. Saint Joseph travels to Egypt to protect the Child trusting Divine Providence in a very difficult enterprise.

Saint Joseph provides material support to Jesus and Mary and serves as model to Jesus to form his human personality, in the strong character that will assist Jesus to confront and overcome the challenges and obstacles of his adult life, modeling Jesus' callous hands by the constant work in the carpenter's shop, in the sense of responsibility for the finished works, in the appreciation for the fruit of our work as we contemplate the work finished.

Saint Joseph, sweet example and model for our contemporary fathers! So much forgotten by many, but always in force and needed so much by all! Teach us the value of performing one's duty, the offering of our sacrifices demanded by the fulfillment of our daily duties, thus sanctifying our lives by offering ourselves to God in the anonymous silence of your sanctified duties!

(Pope Saint John XXIII)

To you, O blessed Joseph; we fly in our tribulation and after imploring the help of your most holy spouse, we ask also with confidence for your patronage. By the affection that united you to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and the paternal love with which you embraced the child Jesus, we beseech you to look kindly upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ acquired by his precious blood, and by your powerful aid to help us in our needs.

Protect, most careful guardian of the holy family, the chosen people of Jesus Christ. Keep us, most loving father, from all pestilence from error and corruption. Be mindful of us, most powerful protector, from your place in heaven, in this warfare with the powers of darkness; and, as you did snatch the child Jesus from danger of death, so now defend the holy Church of God from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Guard each one of us by your perpetual patronage, so that sustained by your example and help, we may live in holiness, die a holy death, and obtain the ever-lasting happiness of heaven. Amen.

(Prof. Américo López-Ortiz)

At this hour of peril and pandemic, before our "limit-existential situation", we turn to you in confidence, as we entrust to the Chaste and Paternal Heart of Saint Joseph, our own existence, our possessions and talents, our family and friends, our Marian Apostolate and the Church, so that they will be totally yours and that you will defend and protect them as your own.

(Pope St. John XXIII)

God, who was pleased to elect blessed Joseph, as spouse of your Mother; grant we beseech you, that as we venerate him as our protector on earth we made deserve to have him as our intercessor in heaven, who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.