

Saint Joseph

*READINGS BY
BLESSED BASILE MOREAU*



I take the occasion to urge all the members of our Association to make a novena in preparation for the feast of St. Joseph in order for them to worthily observe the feast of our glorious patron. To honor him as much as we can, I beg all our fellow-priests, our brothers, our Sisters to spread devotion to him by getting as many new members as possible.

(CL 64, 1854)

Encourage especially devotion to St. Joseph, not only because of his great sanctity, but also because of the marvelous privileges which God grants in favor of those who fervently turn to him. Of these, the first is the virtue of chastity obtained through his intercession...The second is a special assistance against the agony at the last hour and the grace of a happy death.

(CL 104, 1859)

I ask you to obtain from St. Joseph for us all, especially for me who feel myself most in need of his aid, the grace of not hampering in any way the work which God has been pleased to entrust to us; rather, ask that we may cooperate in every way with his designs by refusing no sacrifice to his grace. In other words, let us pray to him for the grace always to judge, feel, speak, and act according to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

(CL 122, 1860)

As for the needs of the Church and society, the hand of God is weighing upon us so evidently, that I do not need to mention it except to emphasize the necessity of averting the impact of his justice by asking the intercession of those who were his most faithful and favorite servants and who are now closest to his Heart in heaven. Now among all of these there is no one, after Mary, who is comparable to St. Joseph. Shall we not, then, turn to his protection when we see the evils, which are in our world, especially in recent years and when we reflect on those, which threaten us for the future? Let us address St. Joseph with confidence, in all our material and spiritual necessities...

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Behold our model, our very own model, my dear sons and daughter in Jesus Christ, and then the model for all the faithful. Let us study him. Let us meditate on him, and keep him before all those whose salvation is entrusted to us. This is the best means of obtaining his protection and his favorable answer to our prayers. (CL 138, 1861)

In the Savior's poverty and woe, St. Joseph accepted his guardianship, took care of his needs, showed him the affection of his heart, and fulfilled all of the duties of a father toward him. It was Joseph who procured for Jesus the food that made his sacred body grow to its full strength and stature, and that filled his veins with the precious blood, which was shed for the salvation of the world. Thus, God the Father gave divinity to Jesus Christ. Mary furnished him his body, and our patron saint preserved his existence. We can but marvel at such a plan of cooperation and the everlasting glory it gave St. Joseph. He was only a man, and yet, by his daily toil, he earned the means to clothe, support and even feed his God. (Sermon on St. Joseph)

As for me, I fall at his feet. I am enraptured by such glory, and I willingly believe St. Joseph equal to the guardian angels. Did he not watch over the divine child committed to his care? I believe him equal to the archangels. Did he not communicate to Jesus and Mary the commands from heaven? I believe him equal to the virtues. Did he not govern the Holy Family? I believe him equal to the powers. Did he not manifest to the Egyptians the power of the Word made flesh, who would overthrow their idols? I believe him equal to the principalities and the dominions. Did he not command the king and queen of heaven? I believe him equal to the thrones. Did he not carry Jesus in his arms? I believe him equal to the cherubim. Did he not penetrate the deepest mysteries of wisdom incarnate? I believe him equal to the seraphim. Was he not raised on the wings of fire to the heights of contemplation and did he not love Jesus Christ with a love so burning that, like the love of these blessed spirits, it transformed him, as St. Bernard says? (Sermon on St. Joseph)

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“O chaste spouse of the Virgin and foster father of my Savior, you open your ears to all who implore your assistance, and so from this moment, I invoke you with new confidence for the priests, brothers, and sisters who have the honor of belonging to a community of which you are the powerful protector. I implore you also for the young whose minds we are charged to develop and whose hearts we are here to form.”

(Sermon on St. Joseph)