

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 25

Glory of Domestic Life, Pray for Us

Joseph love Jesus as a father loves his son and showed his love by giving him the best he had. – St. Josémaria Escriva

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 (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. Andre Bessette did something similar.

St. Andre wanted to erect a shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in Montréal, 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!

St. Joseph wants to bless your home. If you lovingly welcome St. Joseph into your home, invoke his intercession, and honor him in pious devotion, he will greatly bless your domestic life. Wherever St. Joseph is present, Jesus and Mary are present as well.

St. 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 St. Joseph in an effort to sell a home is a modern phenomenon. St. Teresa of Avila and St. Andre 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 statue 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. – Matthew 5:14 – 15

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

St. Joseph loves domestic life. St. 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 twenty years or so. Our Lord, however, lived with Mary and Joseph for thirty years. The love, intimacy and familiarity Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph shared is amazing! St. 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. – Pope Pius XI

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us
St. Joseph,
Noble scion of David,
Light of the Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Sedulous Defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most valiant,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of all who labor,
Glory of family life,
Protector of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Consolation of the afflicted,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of the demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of his household.
R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray. God, Who, in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom, on earth, we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen

