

## 13<sup>th</sup> Day of the 33-Day Preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph

### **St. Joseph is the “Foster Father of the Son of God”**

Dear parishioners of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish,

Some men have a “macho” attitude and think that a man proves his masculinity by his sexual prowess. St. Joseph was virginal, but he was nevertheless necessary and important. He was not the biological father of Jesus, but nevertheless he had a vital role in raising Jesus, the Son of God.

The Catholic Church believes that both Mary and Joseph remained virgins throughout their lives. Joseph was not a widower as some have claimed. And Mary did not have other children. When scripture refers to the “brothers of Jesus” it is referring to his cousins. The Catechism of the Catholic church clearly states this:

The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact, James, and Joseph, “brothers of Jesus,” are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls “the other Mary.” They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #500)

Here are some other quotations which describe this wonderful fact that Joseph was the virginal foster-father of Jesus:

Both Mary and Joseph had made a vow to remain virgins all the days of their lives; and God wished them to be united in the bonds of marriage, not because they repented of the vow already made, but to be confirmed in it and to encourage each other to continue in this holy relation.

— St. Francis de Sales

Mary belonged to Joseph, and Joseph to Mary, so much so that their marriage was very real since they gave themselves to each other. But how could they do this? Behold the triumph of purity. They reciprocally gave their virginity, and over this virginity they gave each other a mutual right. What right? To safeguard the other’s virtue.

— St. Peter Julian Eymard

St. Thomas Aquinas noted that it happened TWICE that Mary was entrusted to a virginal man who would care for her and protect her virginity: First to St. Joseph and later to St. John the Apostle at the foot of the Cross:

We believe that just as the mother of Jesus was a virgin, so was Joseph, because he [God] placed the Virgin in the care of a virgin [St. John the Apostle], and just as he did this at the close [at the Cross], so did he do it at the beginning [at the marriage of Mary and Joseph].

— St. Thomas Aquinas

God the Father did put something into the Heart of St. Joseph to make him more like God the Father. St. Joseph was given a spark of the love of God the Father in order to raise the Christ Child:

That same divine hand that fashions each man's heart gave a father's heart to Joseph and a son's heart to Jesus, so that Jesus obeyed Joseph and Joseph did not fear to command Jesus. And how can he to be so bold as to command his Creator? It was because Christ's true Father, the God who had begotten Him from all eternity, had chosen Joseph to act as father to His son in this world; and in so doing God had, as it were, charged Joseph's breast with some ray or spark of His own boundless love for His Son. It was this that

changed Joseph's heart, it was this that aroused a father's love in him; so much so that, feeling a father's heart burn within him at God's word, Joseph felt also that God was telling him to use a father's authority: therefore, he did not fear to command Him whom he acknowledged as His Master.

— Jacques-Benigne Bossuet

Please pray the Litany of St. Joseph every day at home for the intention of consecrating our parish to St. Joseph on March 19th!

Fr. Mark