

3rd Day of the 33-Day Preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph

Why Consecrate our parish to St. Joseph?

Dear parishioners of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish,

I am trying to write a message to all my parishioners every day during these 33 days because I am very excited about the beautiful things that we are learning about devotion to St. Joseph from book by Fr. Don Calloway and the from the saints whom he mentions in his book.

For this third day of the preparation, Fr. Calloway has suggested quotations which emphasize the fact that St. Joseph is an “icon” of God the Father.

“God chose to make Joseph his most tangible image on earth...” (Blessed William Joseph Chaminade)

“There is but one fatherhood, that of God the Father, the one Creator of the world, of all that is seen and unseen. Yet man, created in the image of God, has been granted a share in this one paternity of God (Eph 3:15). Saint Joseph is a striking case of this...” (Pope Benedict XVI)

This might not seem to be really important. We might think that it is just a matter of symbolism and that Joseph just “reminded” the child Jesus of God the Father. But let us consider the fact that each one of us is called to be an “image of God”. Each one of us are destined to be “like God” in heaven (1John 3:2). Therefore, Joseph IS WHAT EACH ONE OF US ARE CALLED TO BECOME.

Undeniably, Joseph had a great influence on Jesus while he was raising him in Nazareth. Joseph really did “form” Jesus in a fatherly way to become the man he was. Jesus is both true God and true Man. He was truly man. He walked, talked, worked, thought, and prayed like a man. In a human way, he must have been influenced by St. Joseph in his “style” of being a man. He certainly must have gotten some of his masculine mannerisms from his foster father, St. Joseph.

Reflect on how you have experienced your relationship with your own father when you were a child. Then ask yourself: Have I ever tried to think of St. Joseph in a fatherly way?

One of the great promoters of devotion to St. Joseph was Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph. She was born Anna Maria Tauscher van den Bosch in 1855. Her father was a Lutheran minister but as a young woman she decided to become Catholic. Once her father visited her and tried to convince her to give up Catholicism. He saw a book about St. Joseph in her room, and he ridiculed it. Anna Maria wrote about the incident: “During the dinner my father said: ‘How can anyone pray to such an outlandish man?’ This expression, ‘outlandish’ or ‘foreign’ made a deep impression on me. I thought more and more of St. Joseph, and I conceived such a great, tender devotion to dear Father St. Joseph, as I called him, that I thought I ought to make reparation for the coldness of all unbelievers toward him.” (Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph)

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

