

6th Day of the 33-Day Preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph

St. Joseph is the Father of the “Trinity on Earth”

Dear parishioners of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish,

In his book about preparing for Consecration to St. Joseph, Fr. John Calloway gives several quotations from saints which show that the Holy Family was a trinity of interpersonal love which is a reflection of the love of the Holy Trinity in Heaven. In heaven, God is three persons in one God. The Holy Trinity has been compared to a family. God is a trinity of persons. God is a community of persons. God is inter-relational. That is why it is so logical that we are each created in the image of God, because we are communal beings. We need others. Each of us are born of a family and usually we are destined to leave our parents and form another family. We are made by and for love.

When Jesus came down to earth to live among us, he wanted to live in a family. He chose to have a human mother and a human foster father. This Holy Family on Earth formed a kind of trinity on Earth which can be compared to the Holy Trinity in heaven.

Of course, the “Trinity on Earth” was much different. The Holy Trinity in heaven is wholly divine. The Holy Trinity in heaven is completely “uncreated” because it is God. The “Trinity on Earth,” however, the Holy Family, was something “created” by God because Mary and Joseph are mere creatures. In the Holy Family only one person was divine, Jesus, the Son. Joseph is only a man, but in a wonderful and mysterious way he takes the role of God the Father. This gives us an insight into how important the role of St. Joseph was.

Can we think of Mary in relation to the Holy Spirit? Certainly, Mary was “overshadowed” by the Holy Spirit at the time of the Incarnation. St. Maximilian Kolbe says that Mary was a kind of “Incarnation of the Holy Spirit.” Mary is not divine. She is only a “quasi-incarnation” of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Mary is so conformed to the Holy Spirit that she they have become very similar. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but if you want to know what the Holy Spirit looks like, you can look at the Virgin Mary and see someone whose personality is very similar to the Holy Spirit. The task of the Holy Spirit is to comfort (“paraclete”) and guide us. Mary does the same things for us as our spiritual mother.

Here are some quotations about this mysterious idea that there was a “Trinity on Earth” which was a reflection of the “Trinity in Heaven.”

He [St. Joseph] is head of the Holy Family, father of the trinity on earth which resembles so closely the Holy Trinity on high.

— St. Peter Julian Eymard

The Holy Trinity is a family, a Holy Family. They want you to be a member of their family. To make this happen, they have established a trinitarian replica on earth — an earthly trinity. The trinity on earth consists of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph. In a sense, they are the first church. Membership in this family will prepare you for membership in God’s eternal family in heaven.

SAINT JOSEPH IS THE FATHER OF THE TRINITY ON EARTH.

— Fr. Don Calloway

There is no doubt at all that St. Joseph was endowed with all gifts and graces required by the charge which the Eternal Father willed to commit to him, over all the domestic and temporal concerns of our Lord, and the

guidance of his family, which was composed of three persons only, representing to us the mystery of the Most Holy and Adorable Trinity. Not that there is any real comparison in this matter excepting as regards our Lord, who is one of the persons of the Most Blessed Trinity, for the others were but creatures; yet still we may say that it was a trinity on earth representing in some sort the Most Holy Trinity.

— Saint Francis de Sales

What an honor it was [for St. Joseph] to enter into an alliance with the family of the heavenly Father, to become the third person of the created Trinity.

— Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

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