

## St. Joseph: Husband of the Virgin Mary

### 1. St. Joseph, Chaste Virgin

Grace of a love for chastity and purity

~ Chastising concupiscence, which is a craving for that which is pleasant; purity regards surrounding acts

~ 2 Timothy 2:21-22 If anyone cleanses himself of these things, he will be a vessel for lofty use, dedicated, beneficial to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So turn from youthful desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord with purity of heart.

Resolution of celibacy, vow of virginity

~ "The formal and complete element in virginity is the purpose of abstaining from venereal pleasure, which purpose is rendered praiseworthy by its end, in so far, to wit, as this is done in order to have leisure for Divine things." *Summa* p. ii-ii q. clii a. 3

~ Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

~ Psalm 24:3-4 Who may go up the mountain of the LORD? Who can stand in his holy place? The clean of hand and pure of heart, who has not given his soul to useless things, what is vain.

Not harassed by temptations against chastity

~ *Saint Joseph*, father and guardian of virgins, to whose faithful keeping Christ Jesus, innocence itself, and Mary, the virgin of virgins was entrusted, I pray and beseech you by that twofold and most precious charge, by Jesus and Mary, to save me from all uncleanness, to keep my mind untainted, my heart pure, and my body chaste; and to help me always to serve Jesus and Mary in perfect chastity. Amen.

### 2. How St. Joseph treated the Blessed Virgin Mary

Divinely Introduced

Mutual Prayers

Attracted to Virtue and Holiness

~ "Your marvelous virtues act as powerful stimuli to my heart, urging it to make progress in the way of perfection and in the practice of those virtues with which You are so preeminently blessed." *The Life of Saint Joseph*, Maria Cecilia Bajj, ch.21.

She is a Gift

~ "Accept this gift which is being presented to you by God. You shall be the guardian of Her purity. Cherish Her deeply, for She is the delight of the heart of God" *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.16.

Descriptions of St. Joseph's Love:

~ "fervent and tender, heartfelt, tender dedication, spoke with great reverence and affection

Descriptions of Blessed Virgin Mary's Love:

~ "She was concerned at seeing Joseph in such straits, and spoke encouragingly and consolingly to him. Mary's words were more refreshing to Joseph than the most sumptuous of meals." *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.18.

~ "Very graciously she comforted and encouraged him to endure the tribulation" *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.19.

Upon Finding Her Pregnant: Not suspecting anything evil, made no judgments, waiting upon the Lord. Not...  
~“In those who have disorderly passions, and who for want of prudence or other virtues, yield to them, it usually causes the different feelings of wrath, fury, envy toward the person loved, or against the rival who impedes the return of love, be it a well-ordered love or not. Then arise the storms of suspicion and conjecture in the imagination, engendered by these passions; the tempests of alternate desire and abhorrence; of loving affection and vain regret.” *The Mystical City of God*, Ven. Mary of Agreda, vol.II n.397

### 3. A Virginal Marriage

#### God Drawing them Together

##### Chaste Guardian of the Virgin

~ “...for the purpose of safeguarding Her purity...I entrust you with this jewel that you may safeguard it.”  
*The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.19.

##### Mutual Entrustment of Virginitly

~“It is precisely your virginitly which will unite you most closely” *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.17.

##### Two united into One and Ascending Heavenwards

~“Your individual loves will be united into one love, which shall be dedicated to Me, Who am the focal point of this love, and the object of all your desires.” *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.17.

~“Since God is living within You by means of His love, I am intent upon loving Him, His grace, and His love, in Your person.” *The Life of Saint Joseph*, ch.21.

#### Companion in Praise and Thanksgiving to God

##### A Real Marriage?

~“Now the form of matrimony consists in a certain inseparable union of souls, by which husband and wife are pledged by a bond of mutual affection that cannot be sundered.” *Summa* p. iii q. xxix a. 2