

First Day

Saint Joseph in the Mysteries of Jesus



Antiphon

*Joseph, a just man,
Fulfilled the will of the Father
Who reigns in heaven.*

Reading: Mt. 1: 16, 18-21

“Joseph....did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him...” (Mt. 1: 24)

Reflection:

Mary and Joseph are united by a bond of faith. In the eyes of the world they are united in matrimony but before God and the Church are wed in the Holy Spirit. Through this marriage in faith, Mary and Joseph have both been transformed into witnesses and dispensators of the mystery: God makes his dwelling place among mankind, renewing creation and above all, the human heart.

Joseph from Nazareth is a just man. He lived by faith alone and is holy because of his truly heroic faith. Sacred Scripture speaks very little about him; in fact, not one word spoken by the carpenter of Nazareth is recorded. Nevertheless, the silence of Joseph shows us the depths and greatness of his faith. He is great in spirit and faith, not because of words but because he listened in silence to the voice of God from within. He persevered and accepted the truth held within the Word of the living God. For this reason Joseph of Nazareth is a truly admirable witness of the Divine Mercy. (John Paul II, Homily in Livornio, 3-19-82).

Invocations:

*Saint Joseph, grant us the spirit
Of prayer and silence.*

*Saint Joseph, help us to imitate
And love the life at Nazareth*

*Saint Joseph, help us to give
Ourselves to the Lord without reserve.*

or

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I give you my heart and my soul!*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Assist me in my last agony!*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
May I breathe forth my soul
In peace with you.*

Prayer

Holy Father, in remembering the spouse of the Virgin Mary, the patriarch Saint Joseph, we beseech you, through his intercession, to aid and protect our Institute, assisting each of our communities to imitate the life of this simple family of Nazareth. Teach us how to dedicate ourselves to the loving service of the sick, for our own sanctification and for your glory. We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.