



Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistæ

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini

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The Assumption of Saint Joseph



SAINT JOSEPH, THE MOST CHASTE SPOUSE OF BLESSED MARY, has an important connection to, or prefiguration in, the Patriarch Joseph. St. Bernard comes to our aid: "From the great honor of being privileged to be called and considered the father of God (though, of course, he was only the foster-father), we may judge the character and spirit of St. Joseph. We may learn it from his own name which undoubtedly means 'Increase.' Here we must not forget that great patriarch Joseph, who in ancient days was sold into Egypt and of whom St. Joseph was heir not only in name but also in purity, innocence, and grace. Indeed, as that former Joseph, sold and brought to Egypt by the envy of his brothers, prefigured the selling of Christ, so this Joseph, fleeing the envy of Herod, carried Christ into Egypt. The former Joseph, faithfully serving his master, would not commit adultery with his master's wife; this Joseph, knowing Mary to be a virgin, she who was his Lady and the Mother of his Lord, himself remained continent and faithfully protected her. To the former Joseph was given the gift of knowing the mysteries of dreams; the latter was graced not only with knowledge of, but even participation in the mysteries of heaven. The former Joseph kept food-stuffs, not indeed for himself but for all the people, while the latter received into his care the living Bread from heaven for himself as well as for all the world. We dare not doubt that blessed Joseph, to whom the Mother of the Savior was espoused, was a good and faithful servant; a prudent, faithful servant, I repeat, for the Lord appointed him guardian and consoler of His Mother, nourisher of His own body, and coadjutor on earth in the incomprehensible designs of heaven." *St. Joseph, Light of the Patriarchs, pray for us!*

In the keeping with this type and the theme set

forth by St. Bernard, let us consider a few more points that touch upon St. Joseph. Once the patriarch Joseph had passed through all his trials in Egypt, Moses recounts how he had "*dominion over all Egypt.*" Origen helps us understand what this means. Egypt represents the world, the flesh and the devil. So Origen says, "to tread on lust, to flee luxury, and to suppress and curb all the pleasures of the body, this is what it means to have '*dominion over all Egypt*' (cf. Gen. 45:26)." This means that the patriarch was complete master of himself. How much more then the spouse of the Virgin Mary of whom Tradition tells us he was complete master of himself even from his mother's womb. *St. Joseph most chaste, pray for us!*



Second, to see a true fruit of this mastery over Egypt, recall the tender mercy the patriarch showed to his brothers who sold him into slavery. Such mastery is only possible for one who has "*dominion over all Egypt.*" He not only held no resentment against them but also sought to excuse their evil by explaining all the good that had come from it: "*Be not afraid, and let it not seem to you a hard case that you sold me into these countries: for God sent me before you into Egypt for your*

preservation" (Gen 45:5). If Joseph the type was so kind and merciful, how much more must be our own St. Joseph. Those, therefore, who suffer resentments or those who cannot forgive themselves for some past fault should fly to this Joseph! *St. Joseph, consolation of the afflicted, pray for us!*

Finally, recall how Jacob was at first told that Joseph had died, but some time later learned that he was in fact alive and well: "*Joseph thy son is living: and he is ruler in all the land of Egypt*" (cf. Gen 45:26). We can once again apply this to our St. Joseph. Although he died, he is now living in Heaven fully, body and soul, along with His Majesty, Our Lord Jesus Christ,

and his holy spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Family complete in heaven! How very fitting!

An additional type from the Old Testament gives us confidence. Just as the bones of the Patriarch Joseph were carried toward the Promised Land by Moses and Joshua, and were only able to enter in once Joshua (Jesus) and the Ark of the Covenant (Mary) had led the way across the Jordan, so too was St. Joseph's body assumed into heaven once His Majesty ascended there to open the gates and after the Living Ark of the Covenant was taken up into the celestial heights (cf. Apoc 11:19). Joseph indeed died in the Egypt of this world but, at the right moment, his bones were taken up to live again in the Promised Land of Heaven after Jesus and Mary had led the way. Can this be why we have no relics of holy Joseph's body? No wonder this great saint is Protector of Holy Church and the Terror of Demons! He still has dominion over all the world, as well as over the Body of Christ, the Church, as she makes her way out of the Egypt of this world. *St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church, pray for us! St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!*

We will let Pope Leo XIII indicate another reason for the wonder of St. Joseph's Assumption: "In truth, the dignity of the Mother of God is so lofty that naught created can rank above it. But as Joseph has been united to the Blessed Virgin by the ties of marriage, it may not be doubted that he approached nearer than any to the eminent dignity by which the Mother of God surpasses so nobly all created natures. For marriage is the most intimate of all unions which from its essence imparts a community of gifts between those that by it are joined together. Thus, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity." Any loving spouse can see that "by virtue of the conjugal tie," Our Lady would obtain for him the fitting privilege of being a "participator" in the sublime dignity of her resurrection and assumption to make the Holy Family complete and whole in heaven. *St. Joseph, glory of family life, pray for us!* ❀

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE our fourth annual MSJB benefit dinner to be held on June 23rd from 5:30 - 9:30 pm at the nearby Fort Mitchell Country Club. All present will also enjoy a live and edifying children's play on the apparitions of Lourdes, France, as well as other live wholesome musical performances. See our website www.msjb.info for details as the date approaches.

Please join us in praying the Novena in honor of the great St. Joseph. An intention sheet is provided if you desire to unite your intentions with us before the holy Altar of God.

ST. JOSEPH NOVENA (MARCH 10-18)

O GLORIOUS ST. JOSEPH, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special intentions that have been committed to us.

O GUARDIAN OF THE WORD INCARNATE, we feel animated with confidence that thy prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the Throne of God.

(Then the following V. & R. are to be said seven times in honor of the seven joys and sorrows of St. Joseph.)

V. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name,

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Let us pray.

O GLORIOUS ST. JOSEPH, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, and charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be my guide, father, and model through life, that I may merit to die as thou didst in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

St. Joseph, Friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for us.

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

WE REMAIN COMMITTED to building a beautiful and pious grotto for Our Lady where we can light candles, pray and make processions. Various land surveys have been completed with the needed land being officially transferred to our name, thanks to the generous gift of our neighbor. We finalized the design for an ornate authentic Italian Venetian glass mosaic to adorn the inside of the cave. Custom candle racks are designed and ready to order that will hold more than a 100 five-day candles. With the help of our architects, we finalized a design and passed the local board of adjustments, in order to gain the needed permits to begin construction. Unfortunately, however, one neighbor filed an appeal, which we are patiently waiting to be resolved. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated in our efforts to build up the Body of Christ, including not only a beautiful Grotto for the highest honor of our race, but also a traditional religious community of good men to carry out our apostolate of saving souls.



Should you wish to contribute to our work, please make out checks to:

The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist –or simply- MSJB

May God reward you!

The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist (www.msjb.info)





St. Joseph Novena Intentions & Petitions
