

## Listening to our predecessors

Rev. Bro. Etienne Barbier,  
Superior General, Circular  
n° 206, *Devotion to St. Joseph*, p. 517



*Although he came from a royal lineage, Joseph was nothing more than a modest craftsman... He earned his bread and that of the Holy Family, with the sweat of his brow. His example is a model for those who profess voluntary poverty, which consists of living modestly from daily work.*

**(Time of silence)**

- **Magnificat:** Ant.: *Christ the Lord felt honoured to be known as the son of a carpenter, alleluia.*
- **Intercessions:** Shared prayer  
Response: *Saint Joseph, a working father, intercede for us.*
- **Our Father**

## Prayer to Saint Joseph for the vocations



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his Son;  
In you Mary put her confidence.  
With you Christ became man.  
Oh, Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us generous vocations  
of Brothers and of Lay Mennaisians  
so that the children and youth may continue  
to know and love better Jesus Christ.

AMEN!



## PRESENCE AND HOPE St. Joseph, a working father

Vespers – May 5, 2021

For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in  
the Province of St. Michael the Archangel

### Hymn: St. Joseph God has chosen you

Written by James J. Donohue,  
Melody: Any C.M tune

1.

Saint Joseph, God has chosen you  
To keep His Church from harm.  
So hold the Church as once you held  
The Christ-child on your arm.

2.

Saint Joseph, God has given you  
All workers for your own.  
Teach them to do the best they can,  
With steel and wood and stone.

3.

Saint Joseph when you pray for us,  
Pray to the Three in One;  
But talk in human words with him,  
Who let you call him Son.



## **Psalm 128**

**Ant: Give us Lord, our daily bread, Alleluia!**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
And walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands, you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper;  
your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of olive,  
around your table.

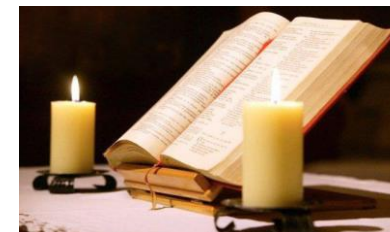
Indeed, thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life!  
May you see your children's children  
in a happy Jerusalem!

On Israel, peace!

## **Word of God: Eph 4:, 28**

*The thief must no longer steal, but rather labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with one in need.*

*(Time of silence)*



## **Pope Francis: Patris Corde**



6.- Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new “normal” from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph’s work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

*(Time of silence)*