

## Listening to our predecessors

**Jean Marie de la Mennais**  
Rule of 1825



If the superior sees fit to assign you to manual work rather than to studies, do not grieve as if your lot were inferior to your Brothers'. Did not Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High and Lord of Lords, work with his hands and at the sweat of his brow, until the age of thirty, in Saint Joseph's humble workshop? Did he not say, "I Have come, not to be served, but to serve"?

*(Time of Silence)*

- **Magnificat: Ant.:** When Jesus began his ministry, he was about thirty years old, and was thought to be the son of Joseph.

- **Intercession:** Shared Prayer  
*Response:* Saint Joseph, father in obedience, 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

**Joseph, an obedient father**

**Vespers September 1, 2021**

For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in  
the Divina Providencia District  
(Argentina - Bolivia - Chili - Uruguay)

### HYMN TO ST JOSEPH

#### LOOK TO US ST JOSEPH

(or any other convenient hymn)

Melody : Dutch Melody 76.76D

Music : Holland 1539 ; Text : Michael Gannon  
Cf. Christian Prayer for the feast on 19th March.

1- Look to us Saint Joseph  
Protector of our Lord,  
Who followed you through deserts,  
And gave you blessed reward ;  
Our foes are yet about us,  
Be strength now at ours side,  
Be light against the darkness,  
St. Joseph be our guide.

2- We venerate your justice,  
The gospels praise your name,  
You are the saint all humble,  
Who gained eternal fame,  
In your devoted family  
Our souls in trust confide,  
Direct our way to heaven.  
St. Joseph be our guide.

## **Psalm 119: 105-112**

**Ant:** *This is the faithful and prudent steward whom the Lord has set over his household.*

Your word is a lamp for my steps \*  
and a light for my path.  
I have sworn and have made up my mind \*  
to obey your decrees.

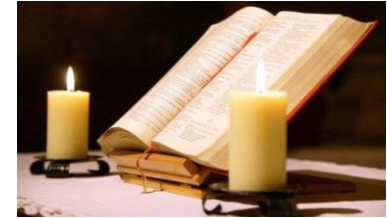
Lord, I am deeply afflicted: \*  
by your word give me life.  
Accept, Lord, the homage of my lips \*  
and teach me your decrees.

Though I carry my life in my hands, \*  
I remember your law.  
Though the wicked try to ensnare me \*  
I do not stray from your precepts.

Your will is my heritage for ever, \*  
the joy of my heart.  
I set myself to carry out your will \*  
in fullness, for ever.

## **Word of God: Lk 2: 3-4**

*“And all men went to be numbered, everyone to his town. And Joseph went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judaea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he was of the house and family of David.”. (Time of silence)*



## **Pope Francis: Patris Corde**



**3.** The evangelist Luke, for his part, tells us that Joseph undertook the long and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered in his family’s town of origin in the census of the Emperor Caesar Augustus. There Jesus was born (cf. Lk 2:7) and his birth, like that of every other child, was recorded in the registry of the Empire. Saint

Luke is especially concerned to tell us that Jesus’ parents observed all the prescriptions of the Law: the rites of the circumcision of Jesus, the purification of Mary after childbirth, the offering of the firstborn to God (cf. 2:21-24).

In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat”, like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents (cf. Lk 2:51), in accordance with God’s command (cf. Ex 20:12).

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. Jn 4:34). Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father’s will rather than his own, becoming “obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews thus concludes that Jesus “learned obedience through what he suffered” (5:8).

All this makes it clear that “Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood” and that in this way, “he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation.” (Time of silence)