

Listening to a confrère

Circular 317:
"In a Mennaisian Family mode"



As he lovingly watched over the growth of Jesus and taught him to walk holding his hand, Joseph is the guide who inspires us, in the storms of life, to leave the rudder of our boat in God's hands. By the example of his obedience, he accompanies us in our following of Christ, even if we have to get up in the night and go where the Lord sends us. By taking Mary into his home without setting any preconditions, he invites us to welcome others without exclusion, the way they are, with a preference for the poorest and most fragile

(Time of Silence)

- **Magnificat: Ant.:** Joseph took the young child and his mother by night and went into Egypt; And was there till the death of Herod.

- **Intercession: Shared Prayer**

Response: Saint Joseph, creatively courageous 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 Joseph, A creatively courageous father

Vespers - 6 October 2021

For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in the
Province Saint Aloysius of Gonzaga (Haiti)

HYMN TO ST JOSEPH

Text: Owen Alstott **Meter: 76.76 D**

(You may apply the tune of: "Stand up, stand up for Jesus...")

1. St. Joseph, great protector
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
O holy man of justice,
We sing with one accord,
Extolling you with praises
for virtue strong and bold,
For faith which still amazes
Each time the story's told.
2. St. Joseph, you were gifted
To be Our Lady's spouse;
In manly joy you lifted
The Christ-child in your house!
When you were given warning
of troubled days ahead,
You yielded not to mourning,
But trusted God instead.
3. St. Joseph through your labor
In simple, honest care,
Your love for God and neighbor
Is great beyond compare!
O holy Spouse of Mary,
Protector of our Lord,
Help us our cross to carry,
And share your great reward!



Psalm 116: 1-9

Ant: Joseph, Get up and take the young child and his mother, and go into Egypt.

I love the Lord for he has heard *
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me *
in the day when I called him.

They surrounded me, the snares of death, *
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress. *
I called on the Lord's name.

O Lord, my God, deliver me!

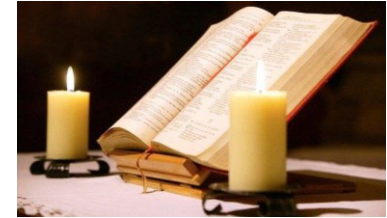
How gracious is the Lord, and just; *
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts; *
I was helpless so he saved me.

Turn back, my soul, to your rest *
for the Lord has been good;
he has kept my soul from death, †
my eyes from tears *
and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

Word of God: Mt 2: 13-15

And when they had gone, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream, saying, "get up and take the young child and his mother, and go into Egypt, and do not go from there till I give you word; for Herod will be searching for the young child to put him to death. So, he took the young child and his mother by night, and went into Egypt; And was there till the death of Herod; so that the word of the Lord through the prophet might come true, Out of Egypt have I sent for my son.



(Time of silence)

Pope Francis: Patris Corde



5. At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him (cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14.21). Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith. [...]

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the child and his mother.

(Time of silence)