

## Listening to our predecessors

Circular N° 30 on the spirit of religious obedience (N°11) of **Rev. Bro. Cyprian Chevreau** (July 1870)



*Such has also been the obedience of Abraham and Saint Joseph; and it is that of all religious saints whose models are those saints.*

*True obedience must be loving and generous. If obedience does not come from the heart, it can only come from fear or need, and it is then a servile obedience, incapable of being pleasing to the Lord who desires to be served in spirit and in truth. (Time of silence)*

- **Magnificat:** Ant.: «He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod»  
(Mt 2, 14)

- **Intercession** : Shared Prayer

Response: Saint Joseph, an obedient 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, an obedient father

Vespers March 3, 2021

For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in the Province of Nuestra Señora del Pilar (Spain)

## HYMN TO ST JOSEPH

**Tune: meter 12.12.12.8**

1. O Joseph, heavenly hosts your worthiness proclaim,  
and Christendom conspires to celebrate your fame;  
for you in purest bonds were to the virgin bound.  
How glorious is your name renowned!

2. But when with grief you saw your spouse about to bear,  
you were oppressed with doubt and filled with wond'ring care;  
at length the angel's word your anxious heart relieved:  
she by the Spirit has conceived.

3. You with your new born Lord sought out far Egypt's land,  
as fugitives you fled over the desert sand.  
The Lord, while lost a while, is in the temple found,  
while tears are shed and joys abound.

4. O Holy Trinity, your suppliant servants spare;  
grant us to rise to heaven upheld by Joseph's prayer,  
and so our grateful hearts to you shall ever raise  
exulting canticles of praise.



## **Psalm 1**

**Ant:** *Just and true are your ways, O King of the ages!*

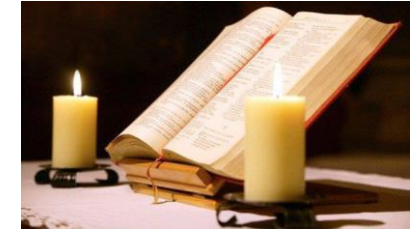
Happy indeed is the man  
Who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
Nor lingers in the way of sinners  
Nor sits in the company of scorners,  
But whose delight is the law of the Lord  
And who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted  
Beside the flowing Waters,  
That yields its fruit in due season  
And whose leaves shall never fade;  
And all that he does shall prosper.  
Not so are wicked, not so!

For they like winnowed chaff  
Shall be driven away by the wind.  
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,  
Nor find room among those who are just  
for the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

## **Word of God: Mt 20: 25-28**

*«You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Time of silence)*



## **Pope Francis: Patris Corde**



3.- As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known. Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to "expose her to public disgrace", so he decided to "dismiss her quietly" (*Mt 1:19*). In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (*Mt 1:20-21*). Joseph's response was immediate: "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (*Mt 1:24*). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him" (*Mt 2:13*). Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved: "He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod" (*Mt 2:14-15*).  
**(Time of silence)**