

Listening to our predecessors

Rev. Bro. Elisée Rannou,
Superior General, Circular
n° 244, *At the occasion of the
annual retreat of 1963.*



St. Joseph in his attitude of an accepting and welcoming Father, teaches us to develop the same attitudes in our apostolate. Bro. Elisée reminds us of the value of such human qualities: *“Human qualities, in fact, can be of great help to the success of the apostolate and we must not fail to acquire and develop them. The apostle remains a man, and his action brings him into contact with other men. It is, in fact, God's plan to use our personal resources, and our value as instruments will be a direct result of the qualities, we are able to cultivate in ourselves”.* **(Time of Silence)**

- **Magnificat: Ant.:** Joseph, Son of David, do not be Afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
- **Intercession:** Shared Prayer
Response: Saint Joseph, an accepting and welcoming 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 accepting Father

Vespers August 4, 2021

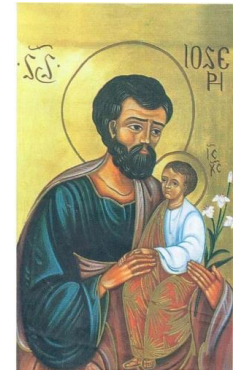
For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in
the Jean de la Mennais Province (Canada-USA-Mexico)

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 labour
In simple, honest care,
Your love for God and neighbour
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 113

Ant: *Mary the mother of Jesus was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

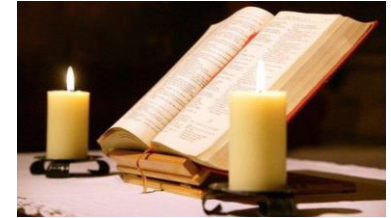
Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Word of God: Mt 1: 20-21

“He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins’”.



(Time of silence)

Pope Francis: Patris Corde



4. Just as God told Joseph: “Son of David, do not be afraid!” (Mt 1:20), so he seems to tell us: “Do not be afraid!” We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel. It does not matter if everything seems to have gone wrong or some things can no longer be fixed. God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, “God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything” (1 Jn 3:20). [...]

Joseph’s attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Cor 1:27). He is the “Father of orphans and protector of widows” (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst. I like to think that it was from Saint Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father (cf. Lk 15:11-32).

(Time of silence)