

Listening to a shared reflection



"Of the three members of the Holy Family, St Joseph is not the greatest. Yet God entrusted him with his most precious treasures, showing that his trust rests neither on our dreams of greatness nor on our fragile perfections, but on humble goodness and daily fidelity to His commandments. Joseph entered into the joy of Nazareth by letting God increase in him".
(Time of silence)

- **Magnificat:** The beloved Son of the Most High was called son of Joseph.

- **Intercession :** Shared Prayer

Response: Saint Joseph, Father in the shadows, 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 father in the shadows

Vespers - 3 November 2021

For the vocations of Brothers and of Lay Mennaisians
in the District of Saint Pierre Chanel [Tahiti]

St. Joseph, heavenly hosts your worthiness proclaim

Tune: meter 12.12.12.8

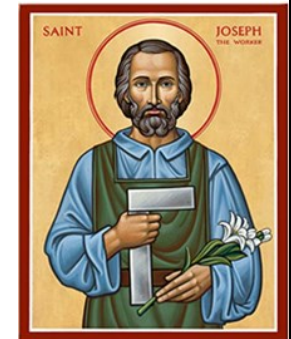
1. O Joseph, heavenly hosts your worthiness
proclaim, and Christendom conspires to celebrate
your fame; for you in purest bonds were to the
virgin bound.

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



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Psalm 127

Ant.: May the Lord build our house and guard our city.

If the Lord does not build the house, *
in vain do its builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city, *
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising, *
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat: *
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord, *
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed, the sons of youth *
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man *
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame *
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Word of God : Mt 2 : 13-15

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.
(Time of silence)



Pope Francis : Patris Corde, n° 7

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person. (...)

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a “most chaste” father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one’s life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a “sign” pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.

(Time of silence)