

Listening to another voice

(based on the reflection of a Brother)



“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife into his home” (Mt.1: 24). This attitude of St Joseph perfectly portrays an aspect of the heart of accepting father. We are invited to reflect on our own attitude in regard to unconditional acceptance of others whom we encounter in our life and in our mission. By accepting the angel’s message, St. Joseph looked beyond the ‘unexpected pregnancy’ to see Mary and her full dignity. **(Time of Silence)**

- **Magnificat: Ant.:** *Son of David, do not be Afraid to take Mary your wife into your home; Alleluia.*

- **Intercession:** Shared Prayer

Response: Saint Joseph, an accepting 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 April 7, 2021

For vocations of the Brothers and Lay Mennaisians in the Province of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

Even within this Easter Octave, we turn to St. Joseph the accepting father to teach us how to welcome and accept others as they are, without conditions, and ask him to obtain for us new members to announce the Good News of the risen Christ.

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 27

Ant: *With his right hand God has raised him up as King and Saviour, Alleluia.*

The Lord is my light and my help;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink?

When evil-doers draw near
to devour my flesh.
It is they, my enemies and foes,
Who stumble and fall.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple

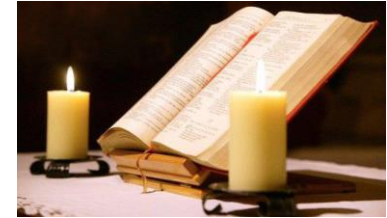
For there he keeps me safe in his tent
in the day of evil.
He hides me in the shelter of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe.

And now my head shall be raised above my foes
who surround me
and I shall offer within his tent
a sacrifice of joy

I will sing and make music for the Lord.

Word of God: Lk 24: 28-35

“When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So, he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread”.



(Time of silence)

Pope Francis: Patris Corde



4. Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. “The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment”.

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow. *(Time of silence)*