

# Consecration the St. Joseph

## Part 18

### Joseph Most Prudent, Pray for Us

What prudence was required to educate a God become a child, who willed to obey him [St. Joseph] for thirty years! – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

What is prudence? In modern times, many people consider it to be a vice or a flaw. If a person is cautious or circumspect in moral matters, they are quite often called a prude. Prudence, however, is a virtue – an extremely important virtue.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church provides a concise definition of prudence. It states:

Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it... It is not to be confused with timidity or fear, nor with duplicity or dissimulation. It is called *auriga virtutum* (the charioteer of the virtues); it guides the other virtues by setting rules and measures.

St. Thomas Aquinas taught that prudence is the "principal of all the virtues." Its role is to govern the other Cardinal (preeminent) virtues: temperance, justice and fortitude. Without prudence, a person will be either too lenient or too harsh. Prudence service as a guide and a "charioteer," helping in the soul to avoid erroneous extremes.

Prudence is the virtue of kings and rulers. Without prudence no leader can exercise temperance, justice and fortitude. St. Joseph, king of the Holy Family and your spiritual father, is (after Jesus) the most prudent of all Men. In every situation in life, he is a model of prudence. He prayed and waited on the Lord to reveal the mysteries of his wife's pregnancy to him. He educated the God-Man, and, in every situation, allowed prudence to govern his actions.

The prudence of St. Joseph was a supernatural prudence. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Supernatural prudence is different from human prudence. Human prudence guides a person to avoid difficulty, suffering and hardship. Supernatural prudence, on the other hand, does not seek to avoid suffering. Supernatural prudence embraces the cross out of love and always strives for the greater good. By God's grace, St. Joseph's prudence was supernatural and heroic. Before the wisdom of the cross was revealed to the world, St. Joseph willingly and voluntarily embraced suffering for the good of others. Before the mystery of co-redemptive suffering was unveiled to souls, St. Joseph lived it out of love.

St. Joseph will increase in you the virtue of prudence. St. Joseph will help you exercise supernatural prudence. In every situation, he will teach you to allow prudence to be your charioteer, guiding you to always do what is right for the sake of love of God and neighbor, no matter how much you have to suffer for it.

St. Joseph teaches us that prudence is correct knowledge about things to be done, or, more broadly, the knowledge of things that ought to be done and of things that should be avoided. – Servant of God John A. Hardon

A man of human prudence would never arise from sleep and flee to Egypt with his spouse and child in response to a dream. A man of human prudence would quickly rebuke any man who informed his wife that her heart would be pierced with a sword and his Son be a cause of division. But St. Joseph is no ordinary man. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he is a man of supernatural prudence. He ponders, prays, discerns and acts. Prudence is his charioteer. With St. Joseph, the virtue of supernatural prudence will be your charioteer as well.

Master that he [St. Joseph] is, he remains always the prudent and faithful servant. St. Joseph, of the family of the kings of Judah, leads a poor and hidden life. Because he was destined to become, as it were, the governor and father of a weak and humble God, it was fitting that he should resemble them. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

### Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us

St. Joseph,

Noble scion of David,

Light of the Patriarchs,

Spouse of the Mother of God,

Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,

Foster-father of the Son of God,

Sedulous Defender of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,

Joseph most chaste,

Joseph most prudent,

Joseph most valiant,

Joseph most obedient,

Joseph most faithful,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of all who labor,

Glory of family life,

Protector of virgins,

Pillar of families,

Consolation of the afflicted,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of the demons,

Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of his household.

R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray. God, Who, in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom, on earth, we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen

