

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 16

Joseph Most Just, Pray for Us

He [St. Joseph] won for himself the title of "The Just Man," and thus serves as a living model of that Christian justice which should reign in social life. – Pope Pius XI

What does it mean to call St. Joseph a just man? St. Josemaria Escriva provides a great answer for us. He states:

St. Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life. This is why Scripture praises Joseph as "a just man." In Hebrew a just man means a good and faithful servant of God, someone who fulfills the divine will (cf. Genesis 7:1; 18:23 – 32; Ezekiel 18:5ff; Proverbs 12:10) or who is honorable and charitable towards his neighbor (cf. Tobias 7:6; 9:6). So a just man is someone who loves God and proves his love by keeping God's commandments and directing his whole life towards the service of his brothers, his fellow man.

What about you? Are you just? Do you love God, keep his commandments and act when honor and charity towards your neighbor?

St. Joseph will increase in you the virtue of justice. Theologians define the virtue of justice as "giving to another his due." For example, in our relationship with God, we owe it to him to be grateful for our existence, and to praise him for his goodness. We act justly toward God, giving him his due, when we worship him, especially by our participation in Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days Of Obligations. If we fail to do this, we are not loving God. We are not acting justly toward God; we are not given him his due.

For St. Joseph, being a just man meant he observed the dictates of the Jewish religion. This required him to travel to Jerusalem three times a year – a long distance from Nazareth – and participate in various rituals and ceremonies. You, on the other hand, most likely live a short distance from a Catholic Church. If you cannot spend one hour a week thanking God and worshiping him, you are not loving God or giving God his due. You are not a just man.

Holy Mass is not about the priest, the people, or the choir. It is about returning love for love and giving God his due. Yes, priests should preach well, liturgical music should be sacred and inspiring, and it is always pleasant to see familiar faces at Mass. Yet even if you find the priest less than edifying, the music a distraction, and the congregation spiritually dead, you need to remember that it is not about them – it is about you acting justly and lovingly towards God. There is no greater way to tell God "I love you," give thanks to God, and worship him than through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving."

God is not the only one that we are to act justly towards out of love. You also need to give others their due. Do you? Do you love, venerate and honor Mary, your spiritual mother? Do you love, venerate and honor St. Joseph, your spiritual father? Do you treat members of your family with love, respect and dignity? What about your neighbors, coworkers and everyone else with whom you daily interact? If you are an employer, do you offer a just wage? Remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). Your spiritual father acted justly and lovingly towards everyone; you should too.

Do you wish to know why Joseph is called just? Because he possessed perfectly all of the virtues. – St. Maximus of Turin

The Gospel describes St. Joseph as a Just Man. No greater praise of virtue and no higher tribute to merit could be applied to a man. – St. Pope Paul VI

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

