

# ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION IN CHRIST'S LIFE AND IN THE CHURCH

## Introduction:

### Dear Parents:

The Lenten path has begun with the imposition of ashes reminding us that it is time to bring to light what God is expecting of us and to strengthen our desire to do His will.

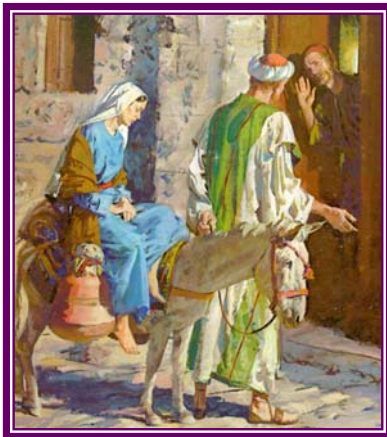
During Lent the Church invites us to remember St. Joseph and ask for his intercession, because he is a model of generous response to the call God gave him. His unconditional faith is like that of Abraham. He was a just and faithful man whom God chose as head of his family. He believed against all odds and silently followed the will of God. Let us look at the life of St. Joseph so that together with Mary we may learn from them to be disciples of his Son Jesus Christ who he served.



## Message:

Pope John Paul II wrote a beautiful Apostolic Exhortation about St. Joseph entitled "The Figure and Mission of St. Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church." (1989).

In it he writes that St. Joseph, after Mary and with Mary is the most important person in the life of Christ, in the life of the Church and in our life because just as he lovingly took care of Mary and with joyful determination educated Jesus; he also watches over the mystical body of Christ, the Church.



### Mary's faith and Joseph's faith meet.

Elizabeth said to Mary "Happy are you because you believe what the Lord said to you will come true" and this beatitude can also be applied to St. Joseph because he responded affirmatively to the Word of God, as St. Mathew writes: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (1,24). The Word of God that Joseph received in a dream gave light to his doubt and he obeyed: he took his wife. He accepted the **mystery of the divine motherhood of Mary as work of the Holy Spirit and took care of Jesus as a father following the will of God as Mary followed it.**



Joseph continues his journey through life accompanying his wife Mary and her son Jesus Christ. Although he did not take part in the conception of Jesus, he did give him all the help and love that a father should give. He dedicated his life to the wellbeing of the one who conceived the Savior. He prepared his birth; cared for him as he took his first steps; satisfied his material needs and cooperated with the work of redemption. Christian families find in St. Joseph a model of fatherhood who positively influences the child as he participates in his educational process without suffocating the child's spontaneity and personality or leaving him with painful experiences and a sense of insecurity and abandonment.

St. Joseph and Mary's path follow the same direction; accompanying Jesus for as long as He needs it according to God's project. St. Joseph then withdraws finally resting in the arms of Jesus and Mary as his mission is over.

Let us briefly walk with St. Joseph in his path of faith:

He lived with the presence of God in his humble home. Teaching your children to receive, love and adore Jesus at home is your mission as parents. **It is your calling to allow your children to feel the loving presence of God at home.**

At the circumcision, Joseph performs his responsibility of offering his son to God. Joseph knows that God has made an alliance with his people; that he is the beneficiary of such an alliance and he must carry out all that God commanded even if this is painful. **Parents, you must not forget that your children are a gift from God that you must offer to the Lord and teach them to follow the will of God. You are committed to teach them how to live out the commandments of God.**

### Name:

The child receives the name Jesus given by the angel, because this child has a specific mission given by God: "He will save His people from sin" **Joseph adopts the child as he gives Him the name and recognizes and accepts what God has designed for this child. Therefore, he becomes a partner in Jesus' work of redemption. You must also learn to discover the will of God for each one of your children, since each of them has been given a mission that must be accomplished in this world. Christian parents do not impose their will upon their children; but help them discover their vocation. Don't forget that the priesthood and the consecrated life are vocations that God might want them to follow.**



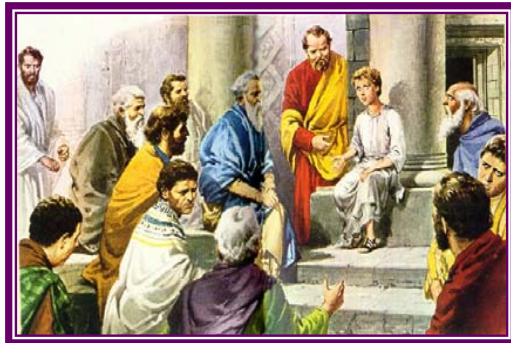


**Children are not the parents personal property.**

Conceiving a child is receiving him as a gift from God. **Therefore, children belong first to God then to their parents. This truth brings along many implications.** You are instruments of our Heavenly Father as you proceed in the formation of your children. **There is where you find the limit** that must be respected as you perform your mission.

Parents must be constantly attentive to the privileged relationship of their children with our Heavenly Father in the process of educating their children, since they must take care of their Father's business as Jesus did. Joseph and Mary understood this great mystery especially at the time of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, when Simeon reminded them that their Child would be the "light of the nations" and a "sign of contradiction".

Later when Jesus turned twelve years of age, they lost Him and found Him in the temple. Jesus did not wish to make His parents suffer. He wanted to give us all a lesson; as painful as this might be for His parents. **The lesson is that we must be ready to leave our parents in order to do the will of God; and parents must not place any stumbling blocks for their children as they follow their vocation, because our owner is the Creator and our parents cooperated with Him to bring us to this world.**



It is very important for parents to help their children in their generous decisions without placing any obstacles. St. Joseph gave himself to God and also defended and cared for Christ's vocation. He performed his mission, joining tenderness and affection, understanding and patience, familiarity and authority. He made sure that Christ would receive a holistic education. When parents do not learn to educate their children, their sons or daughters can be dominated by fears and be unfit to face the problems of life with courage.

- ❖ How do you confront the dangers that are a menace to your children?
- ❖ Do you teach your children to be attentive to the voice of God as Joseph and Mary did?

Di scuss:

**Sources:**

Apostolic Exhortation Redemptoris Custos  
La vocación explicada por el Papa (IV)  
Homilía en la fiesta del Señor San José  
Translated by: Sr. Hilda María Reynoso, SJS

Juan Pablo II, 15 de agosto de 1989  
Pedro Beteta López  
Mario De Gasperín Gasperín, Obispo de Querétaro,



# Family Bulletin

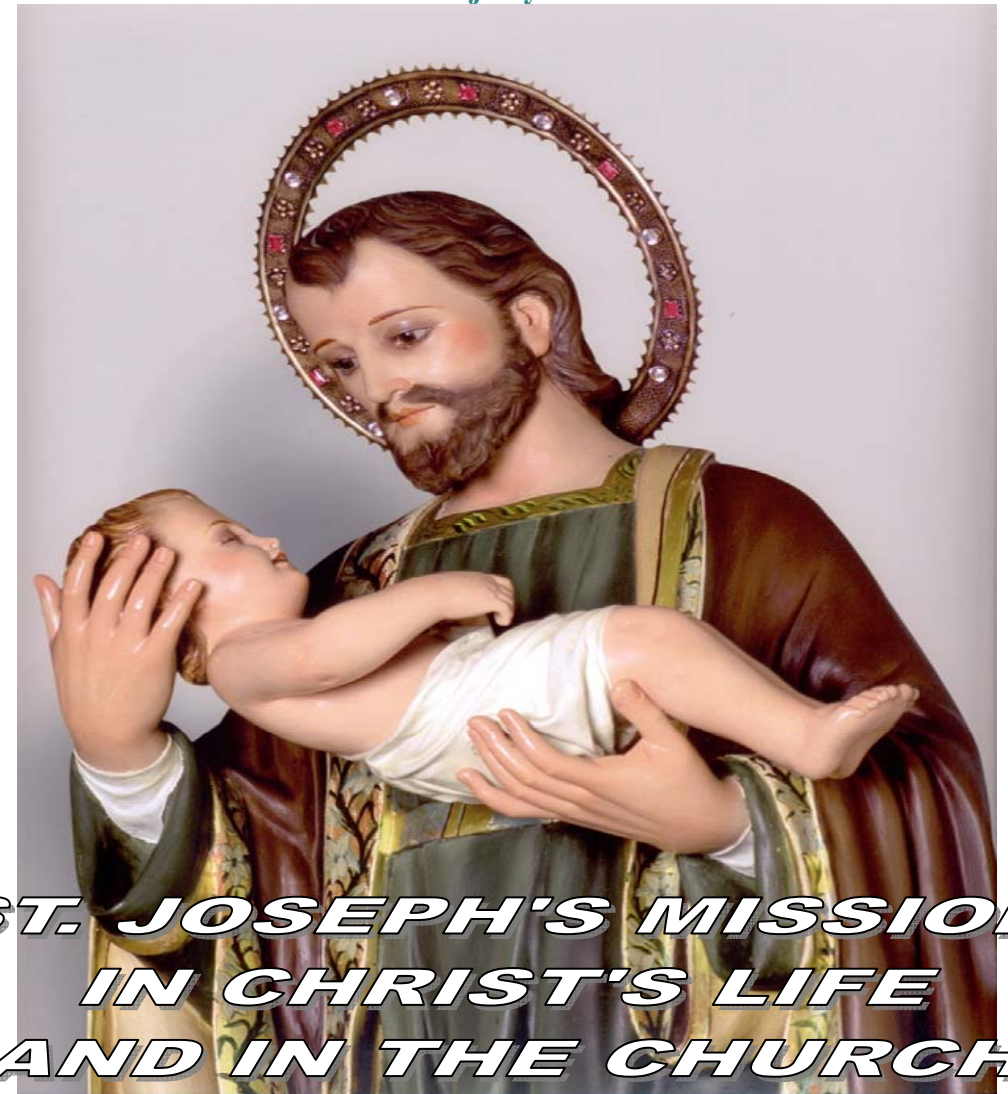
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