

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN  
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## THESE FAVORS, ST. JOSEPH!

I doubt, St. Joseph, that there were as many glaring temptations in your day as there are in mine. You had no movies in Nazareth and no billboards and newspapers and magazines.

But the pagans of your day couldn't have been much different from modern pagans. They probably tried, somehow, to exchange filth for money, even in little towns like Nazareth.

I suppose there were lewd mouths on the streets, in shops, and even, sometimes, on rostrums, that talked pagan immorality to the young men of your day.

You were once young yourself, St. Joseph; you had your temptations. But you kept yourself so clean in all that environment that God chose you to be the spouse of His young and beautiful Mother. You must have been troubled and afraid when that announcement came to you. It was so strange—your fiancée a virgin, who, still as a virgin, would become a mother, mother of the Christ!

Divine Providence seems to have placed many burdens upon your shoulders. What of that embarrassing trip to Bethlehem with no accommodations at the inns! What of mad Herod scheming with power and violence, and the fugitive trip into Egypt! What of the three gloomy days when the Christ-child was lost to you and Mary in Jerusalem!

God could have saved you all those anxieties. But He didn't. He tested your prudence and your courage and loyalty, as your young chastity He had proved by trial. God had His reason in your life, as He has His reason in mine.

Tomorrow on your feast, St. Joseph, I ask you, not to be free from temptation, but rather, two other great graces: to be pure in spite of temptation; and, some day, to head a family that you and Our Lady will be proud of and that God will abundantly bless.

Father Hoff preaches at 7:00 and 7:30 tonight.

MASS, Thursday of St. Joseph, p. 767; 2nd col., p. 240.



By Guido Reni

PRAYERS: (deceased) brother of Father Joseph Gallagher, C.S.C.; Major Kelly, U.S.A.; uncle of Frank Vallez. Ill, friend of Roger Sweeney (Fresh.); Gerald Holland, '25, Detroit, major operation; Daniel J. O'Neil, '25, New York City, double pneumonia; uncle of Vincent DeCourcey (St. Ed's); friend of Don Sconfietti (Cor.); grandmother of Ken Laws (Walsh).