

St. Joseph and The Eucharist.

Although all Catholics have great devotion to St. Joseph and for the Holy Eucharist, we never think of those two devotions as connected with each other; and we should.

Of course, St. Joseph never received Holy Communion while he was alive on earth. In all probability, he died before the public life of Our Lord had begun. But all the same there is a great quality in St. Joseph's life that should be repeated in our own Eucharistic life: and that is his active, living Faith. Saint Joseph was above all a man of Faith, and his Faith led him to instantaneous action. The Holy Eucharist is above all a mystery of Faith, and our Faith in the Eucharist should result in instant action.

It was part of the divine plan that St. Joseph should not live to see the miracles of Christ, but should rule his holy life entirely in the dark and hidden light, the obscurity of Faith. God tried Saint Joseph's Faith even before the Child was born. It is only with the deepest reverence and humility of soul that we can enter into the perplexity that troubled his mind when he knew his espoused wife, Mary, to be with child. It was too deep for him to understand; yet because he knew she was a spotless virgin, he would not publicly renounce his claim on her; and was on the verge of slipping quietly out of her life when the angel told him that the Child was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Then instantly, without question, Saint Joseph took her to himself, and became her guardian, and the foster-father of the Christ Child.

Then immediately after the birth of Christ, when the Holy Family was enjoying the quiet peace of Bethlehem, came the command of the angel to take Mary and Jesus and go into Egypt. Joseph did not object, did not ask what would become of his business, etc., but immediately followed orders. And so with the command to return to Nazareth, and with the life of the Holy Family there -- all without extraordinary help from Our Lord, Mary at least saw some of the miracles, and she saw her Son risen from the dead. But for Joseph: Faith alone and action based on Faith.

And so it is with the Holy Eucharist. We do not see Our Lord, we only believe that He is there, and that we possess Him in an intimacy more familiar even than that of Joseph and Mary with Jesus at Nazareth. He does not work any miracles for us in the Eucharist: We do not always feel spiritual improvement as a result of frequent Communion. You can't measure growth in the actual process of growing, you can only check it afterwards by looking at what you were before. So with Holy Communion: daily we receive Him, daily our souls are growing stronger under the influence of His presence as St. Joseph daily advanced in grace at Nazareth. All we need is to receive Him with Faith; carry out His commands (live worthily of the Eucharist), and we too will advance daily as Joseph did.

(Chaplain's Digest)

PRAYERS: (deceased) friend of Ronald Byersmith (Bad); Augustine Cuomo, friend of Tom Carroll and Robert Thompson (Morr); friend of Howie Wurth (Scr); Mrs. Lenore Wolter; father of Eudolph Rog (Ly) (5th Anniv.); father of Bernard Underminer, 42; uncle of John Hoelscher, '42; grandfather of Gene Butz (DP); grandmother of Tom Nelson, Jr. (Wal); Adolph Lucha, father of Sister M. Englebert (Amsterdam, N.Y.). (Ill) mother of Tom and Paul (Wal) and Dave Kennedy (BP), auto accident. Eleven Special Intentions. One Thanksgiving.

