

University of Notre Dame

~~Tomorrow:~~ it's Dillon,
Laugherty, and Sorin for
Lenten Adoration.

Religious Bulletin
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On Wednesday: it will be
Badin, Howard, and Lyons.

Saint Of The Daily Grind

If you search the entire Scriptures, you won't find a single word uttered by St. Joseph. Nor is there anything spectacular about him -- like miracles. Never did the world, or any part of the world, stand in awe of him. In short, he was no "attention-getter." Always, it seems, he avoided the limelight; he was content to play second-fiddle in the holy harmony of the little family at Nazareth.

So far as we know, he never endured long fasts, or did severe penance, or fled to the desert to pray. St. Joseph did none of these things at all. In the neighborhood he was probably a nobody, because he did nothing at all for the world to notice. We know that he was a carpenter by trade; and that he got up in the morning, day after day, just as we do, to face the work before him. He had a living to earn for his family. His job wasn't very exciting, or glamorous. There was no electricity, nor labor-saving device to be utilized. Rather, the work was monotonous, and wearying. And so he got tired, and rested, and slept, and then went back to work again -- the same work as last week, last month, last year.

There was no insurance, no sick leave, no vacation with pay, no weekends in the country, no theatres, no supper clubs in Nazareth. Village life was uneventful; while travel was by foot, and wearying. No, St. Joseph didn't amount to much in the eyes of the world. With equal truth, we might say that the world and what it had to offer didn't mean very much to St. Joseph, either.

Even though life was not easy, nor industry rewarding, the big pay-off for the good saint was in the fringe benefits -- a constant awareness of the presence of God; a close association with the Child and His Mother; a peace of mind and heart that surpassed all understanding; and finally a high place in Heaven.

In rating the virtues that loom large in the life of this quiet, self-effacing individual, don't let this one escape you -- namely, that his whole life is an admonition to us to be faithful to the daily duties of our state in life -- especially the little things that are not worth headlines, that cause no throngs to gather with open mouths, that go unnoticed by the curious and so escape the Winchell-minded and their subsequent chattering. He simply took each day as it came, and made the most of it as it unfolded before him. And finally, when his days had served God's purpose, and his role was finished, and the Child had grown straight and tall, and **self-reliant**, St. Joseph laid down his tools, and slipped off quietly and unnoticed into Eternity. Even in this detail the Scriptures are silent -- there is not a word written of his obituary.

It's comforting to recall that the daily, ordinary routine of our lives, when animated by a love of God, can move us comfortably into heaven!

If you think your life is a little monotonous, these days, don't despair. Youth tends to be unstable. The routine of study can be as wearing as the routine of Lent with its self-denial. But here's a patron saint for these virtues. And if you have slipped -- since the beginning of the semester, or since Ash Wednesday -- remember this: the essence of sanctity is lodged in a humility whereby you keep picking yourself up after you have failed. That you can, and must, do daily.

PRAYERS - Deceased: grandmother of John Keller of Walsh; J. Fred Sallows, '25; grandmother of George Speiser (O-C); uncle of John Hogue of Alumni, cousin of Fr. Wm. McNamara, CSC, uncle of Wymon Spano of R-P. Ill: Msgr. Kavanagh; friend of Tom Garrity of Morrissey; father of Tom Kurt of Cavanaugh; friend of Ray Mature of Cavanaugh (critical); father of Rev. Edmund Joyce, CSC. 3 special intentions.