

LITURGY BYTES

Year of St. Joseph



Since we just celebrated Father's Day last week, my thoughts went to how the Church has declared this year, the year of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. There has been quite a bit written on his life these past months, pointing out many things about his life that I never realized. Here is a small sample of what Pope Francis has said in his Apostolic Letter, "Patris Corde," that will help us come to know this quiet carpenter who helped raise Jesus.

Throughout salvation history, God has repeatedly chosen the least likely candidates to accomplish His will. Moses was slow of speech, Peter was a fisherman, Paul was a persecutor of the Church, Joseph was a carpenter. What matters not to the Lord is anyone's status in life, our prestige or our mightiness, but simply that we do His will. St. Joseph modeled that in every moment of his life, from accepting Mary into his home, to naming his son Jesus, to fleeing for safety to Egypt, and then returning to Nazareth. He certainly teaches us humility and obedience.

He also was a father in every sense of the word. He guided and protected his family, provided for them, and loved them with tender affection. Everything he did was for the well-being of Mary and Jesus. He was a strong leader as well as a servant. He sacrificed much, worked at his vocation for the family, and taught Jesus his trade.

Many parents do exactly what Joseph did for their families, day in and day out. How many of us see the example of St. Joseph as a great role model for our own individual lives? Do we realize these daily tasks for our families are acts of holiness? There is much more written about St. Joseph to reflect on. Hopefully, a few of the above pointers will touch your heart as it did mine.

Have a blessed, safe and healthy week! ~~*Michele Hahn*