

# With a Father's Heart



Joseph and Mary's obedience to God's will and their love for Jesus on earth lead to them being gloriously empowered in Heaven. Jesus told his disciples, "you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel," and St. Paul reminded the Corinthians "we will judge angels." It seems that faithful human creatures who, by God's grace, love and serve the Lord in the likeness of Christ himself are best suited to become powerful, humble, servant rulers in the Kingdom of Heaven.

St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, pray for us!

Matthew's Gospel records how an angel (probably the Archangel Gabriel though perhaps another) told Joseph in a dream: "'[Mary, your wife,] will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus...'" When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus." Just as John's Gospel tells us "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book," so St. Joseph almost certainly said many unrecorded things. But the one word that Scripture most clearly suggests St. Joseph said is "Jesus." The name of Jesus is the sum total proclamation of St. Joseph's life. May it be so for us as well.





The silence of Joseph echoes in a world of noise turning a cacophony of self love into a melody of self surrender.

The silence of Joseph is a seed which bears the fruit of holiness and courage.

The silence of Joseph drowns the din of sorrow and silences the wailing of the weak.

The silence of Joseph draws the world to a cave in Bethlehem where God is born as man and man is born again.

The silence of Joseph draws us to our knees in worship of the Word made flesh in whose presence all words of men lose their meaning.

The silence of Joseph directs a symphony of silence which stills the universe in adoration of the One in Whom the New creation has come.

**Let us join our silence to the Silence of Joseph.**

Pope Benedict XV clearly expressed this idea: "By St. Joseph we are led directly to Mary, and by Mary to the fountain of all holiness, Jesus Christ, who sanctified the domestic virtues by His obedience to St. Joseph and Mary."

Together with Mary, Joseph is the first guardian of this divine mystery. Together with Mary, and in relation to Mary, he shares in this final phase of God's self-revelation in Christ and he does so from the very beginning.

The growth of Jesus "in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man" (Lk 2:52) took place within the Holy Family under the eyes of Joseph, who had the important task of "raising" Jesus, that is, feeding, clothing and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father.

St. Joseph is a beautiful example of humility and simplicity. He shows us the dignity of labour done for the love of God. He demonstrates for us how to be a good and faithful spouse. He shows us the tremendous importance of fatherhood.

