

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY

LOVE, THE CAUSE OF SAINT JOSEPH'S MARTYRDOM

April 26, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

We may well call Saint Joseph the martyr of the hidden life, for no one ever suffered as he did. But why so much sorrow in his life? Simply because the holier a person is, the more he must suffer for the love and glory of God. Suffering is the flowering of God's grace in a soul and the triumph of the soul's love for God. Therefore, Saint Joseph, the greatest of saints after Mary, suffered more than all the martyrs.

The source of his suffering lay in his deep, tender, and enlightened love for Jesus and in his veneration for the Virgin Mary. All the elect must climb the hill of Calvary, and it is only through the wounds in His hands and feet that they reach the heart of Jesus. It is not so much a question of penitence as of love; penitence only pays a debt, but love goes further and crucifies itself with Jesus and for Jesus. It is a truth then that the more a soul loves, the more it suffers.

That is why Saint Joseph's Calvary lasted thirty years with no respite whatever.

Of course he had certain moments of happiness, but they did not last long, nor did he linger over them, for suffering was a need of his heart; he rejoiced in it, knowing well that true love is crucified love. Only in heaven shall we grasp the full extent of Saint Joseph's suffering; but what we already know from meditation helps us to estimate his merits and the intensity of his love. Weigh his sufferings, and you will know the extent of his love; weigh the sacrifices of the saints, and you will know the degree of their love. Love is not joy and consolation: these are only the reward of love.

Further question to consider:

Do I worship Jesus in 'adoration' for the consolations I receive or for the simple reason that I love him? Am I afraid to suffer? Do I love Him enough in order to endure suffering?

Action Item:

Today, offer up a small sacrifice to Jesus.

Daily Prayer:

Be mindful of us, O blessed Joseph, and intercede for us with thy foster-Son by the pleading of thy prayer: do thou in like manner render the Blessed Virgin Mary, thy Spouse, gracious unto us, for she is the Mother of Him, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen. (*Memorare of St. Bernardine of Siena*)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be