

FOURTH DAY

SAINT JOSEPH'S DIGNITY

April 2, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

In vain do we look for a saint who has been honored with a dignity the equal of Saint Joseph's. Saint Joseph's dignity springs from his privilege of being the legal father of the Incarnate Son of God. Here, then, is a man whom the Son of God calls father, one whom He serves and obeys and before whom He kneels for a paternal blessing. [...] The divine economy required that Jesus be Joseph's dutiful and submissive son. That a man should command the God they adore and act as they themselves would never do challenges the understanding of the angels themselves and leaves them in a state of admiration and amazement. [...] Foster-father of Jesus, spouse of Mary—these are the two great sources of Saint Joseph's incomparable greatness, the two titles which rank him above the celestial hierarchies. Saint Joseph plays an important part in the mystery of the Incarnation; he comes very close to the Word Incarnate.

Further question to consider:

If God entrusted His Son and Blessed Mother to St. Joseph, is it reasonable for me to entrust myself to him as well? What does it mean to entrust myself to St. Joseph? Maybe I will not understand that clearly now, at this point, but maybe later on in the consecration. The sources of St. Joseph's incomparable greatness are Jesus and Mary, how is my devotion to them?

Action Item:

- Plan to honor St. Joseph with an image or small statue placed in your room or place of prayer.

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