

EIGHTEENTH DAY
DEVOTEDNESS OF SAINT JOSEPH

April 16, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

Saint Joseph had the virtue which marks a good servant, disinterested devotedness. Every moment of his life was consecrated to the service of our Lord: sleep, rest, work-everything was sacrificed uncomplainingly and unselfishly. If we love someone more than our selves our devotedness is unbounded. Joseph's entire life was one of generous giving climaxed by his exultant readiness to die in proof of his love for our Lord. With true disinterested devotedness he worked without praise or reward.

In the Eucharistic service we must imitate Saint Joseph's generosity. Like him we must be ready even to die if need be, because we could never repay our Lord for all He has done for us, were we to live a thousand years. Our devotedness must be like Saint Joseph's, disinterested and unselfish. We serve our Lord without any reward here on earth; we have no right to expect one. Is not the privilege of serving Christ already sufficient recompense? Do the angels seek recompense for their service There can be no greater reward here below than the joy and the honor of serving His adorable Person.

THOUGHT FROM SAINT ALPHONSUS. -God wanted Joseph to be in a certain sense a cooperator in the redemption of the world, the work which belonged properly to the three Divine Persons. In view of this, since God wanted Joseph to hold the place of father toward Jesus, He confided to him the care of nourishing the Child and defending him against the wiles of the enemy. Watch over Him and be faithful to Me.

Further question to consider:

Do I seek recompense in my service to Christ? Is my service to the Lord disinterested and unselfish? How do I practice true devotedness to Jesus?

Action Item:

Practice a work of mercy and expect no reward from our Lord.

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

