

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY

THE COMPASSION OF SAINT JOSEPH

April 24, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

From the day the aged Simeon had predicted Christ's Passion, never a moment elapsed when that Passion was not present to the mind of Saint Joseph.

The Scriptures showed it to him in figure, while Jesus spoke to him of it continually. For Jesus loved His father too much to deprive him of the grace of suffering the Passion with Him and of sharing beforehand in its merits.

From then on, Calvary was established in the heart of Joseph and there the Cross was set up.

For thirty years Saint Joseph continually saw our Lord on the Cross. How Saint Joseph must have wept as he listened to them! More enlightened by God than were the Apostles, Joseph appreciated the blessings of the Cross and understood the need of Jesus' suffering.

To draw Saint Joseph into intimate union with Himself and grant him the merit of the whole Passion, our Lord had to show it to him in all its details and with all its bitterness.

Falling at Jesus' feet, Joseph would weep and exclaim, "My dear Child, allow me to remain on earth to suffer and die instead of You." In advance he compassionated each of Jesus' sufferings.

Poor Saint Joseph! He had to submit to death and leave behind him Jesus and Mary; Jesus, to be crucified and abandoned by His people; Mary, to suffer alone, unassisted. How his love for them was crucified!

He was to have a fuller chalice of pain than all the rest because our Lord loved him more than all of them except Mary. Our Lord owed it to the love He bore Saint Joseph.

Sympathize with the distress of Saint Joseph; remember his thirty years on Calvary.

Further question to consider:

St. Joseph carried his cross in his heart for many years with the knowledge of what will happen to Jesus and knowing he will not be there for Jesus and Mary. A cross is a gift and a pathway to heaven given and gladly accepted by the saints. Are you open to carrying your cross with love and patience knowing that the end goal is being united with Jesus in heaven?

Action Item:

Ask St. Joseph to grant you the grace to carry your crosses with love and patience.

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