

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

HAPPY DEATH OF SAINT JOSEPH

April 29, 2021

Saint Joseph is the patron and protector of a happy death. Those who pray to him are certain to die in good dispositions. He is the model of those who wish to die in the Lord. He never preached, but he gave his entire life to the service of Jesus and died in his arms. He had spent long years in the service of Jesus. With him the family was complete.

When his last hour came, it was Jesus who broke the news to him. The Saint not only accepted it but blessed the will of God. Jesus and Mary remained close to him.

Besides, death is always a sacrifice, and even the death of the saints, precious before God, is sorrowful on earth. Jesus consoled his foster father and gave him confidence, for every one fears death even the saints because of their humility. Mary, who loved Joseph so much, soothed him with tender words. Pray that you may be assisted at death, like Saint Joseph, by Jesus and Mary.

Saint Joseph accepted death and this acceptance crowned his hidden life and his virtues. His adopted Son, for whom he had cared so lovingly, became his Judge. Need we say that Jesus must have been very merciful toward his good foster father.

And when the hour of liberation was come, Jesus must have showered Joseph with the choice fruits of the Redemption. His throne is high in heaven, close to his Foster-Son. Pray that he intercede for you. They say that the saint to whom we have prayed in a special manner during life will assist us very closely at death. May it be Saint Joseph!

Further questions to consider:

Have I surrendered the prospect of my death, or the death of a loved one to God's will? Do I fear death? What can I change in my life to help me achieve a holy death?

Action Item:

Say this prayer tonight: "Dear St. Joseph, please intercede for me at the hour of my death, that I may be treated with mercy and not what I deserve. Stay with me and guide through my life that I may become holy like you."

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