

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY  
*SAINT JOSEPH, PERFECT SUPERIOR*

**April 22, 2021**

**St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:**

As head of the Holy Family, Saint Joseph received all his orders from God and was charged with the execution of them. The heavenly messages were addressed, not to Jesus or Mary, but to Joseph, and it was he who had to deliver them to his divine family and receive the obedience of Jesus and Mary.

At the thought of such power, did Saint Joseph yield to pride? Or refer it to himself? No. When God gives much grace, He crushes us under the weight of His glory; and the grace is but a reason to humble ourselves further.

Compared to Jesus-the Son of God, the Splendor of the Father - Saint Joseph dwindled into nothingness; compared to Mary, he was but a pale star eclipsed by the luster of her graces and holiness. From any viewpoint, he was the least; and yet it was he who had authority and gave orders.

He must have suffered deeply and had to do violence to his humility each time he was obliged to command Jesus and Mary, his King and his Queen: "I, poor wretch, command my sovereigns!..." Still he did it with good grace; it was the order established by God.

Shall we be foolish enough to pride ourselves in the authority granted us? That would be ridiculous. Announcing the golden age of Christianity, God said: "A little child shall govern them and lead them." God thereby manifests His power and His mercy. To keep themselves in the proper sentiments of humility, those who are placed above others would do well to remember this lesson. "But many will be first that were last, and last that were first."

**Further question to consider:**

How have you behaved in the past when given an opportunity to be a leader or a position of authority over others? Have you acted humbly or prideful?

**Action Item:**

Ask St. Joseph to help you work on the virtue of humility.

**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*