

FOURTEENTH DAY
SAINT JOSEPH'S LIFE OF RETIREMENT

April 12, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

He lived in silence, interior as well as exterior; for him virtue consisted in absolute silence. At Nazareth, at Bethlehem, and in Egypt he lived in complete solitude. Solitude is necessary if love and the interior life are to thrive. Alone with our Lord Saint Joseph is indifferent to the world; for him the world is dead, nonexistent.

Silent and solitary, Saint Joseph was always united in mind with Jesus and Mary; never did his thoughts wander from this divine center. We are too worldly-minded to grasp the recollection of Saint Joseph. Love ruled his life. He would watch our Lord and learn in this way each of his duties, just as Christ watched His Father incessantly and found there the basis of all His thoughts, judgments, and actions, in a word, of His whole life.

We have close to us just as much as Joseph had at Nazareth; we have our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, but our poor eyes fail to see Him. Let us once become interior souls and we shall immediately see. In no better way can we enter into the Heart of our Lord than through Saint Joseph. Jesus and Mary are eager to pay the debts which they owe him for his devoted care of them, and their greatest pleasure is to fulfill his least desire. Let him, then, lead you by the hand into the interior sanctuary of Jesus Eucharistic.

Further question to consider:

On a given Sunday, do I choose to watch football, attend soccer matches, parties, trips out of town or other worldly activities instead of attending Holy Mass? Do I love Jesus enough to choose Him above all things? How can I remove the noise to make space for Jesus in my life? How can I love and serve Him better?

Action Item:

Start small by practicing to let go of one worldly activity one day this week and replace that time with time for Jesus. Pray this daily to St. Joseph this week: "St. Joseph, teach me how to keep silent, pray and unite myself with Jesus completely."

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