

## TWENTY-THIRD DAY

### *SAINT JOSEPH, PERFECT MODEL OF POVERTY*

**April 21, 2021**

**St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:**

The Word of God, desiring to espouse our poor humanity, became poor for love of us. And Jesus wishes this poverty, affective and effective, to be the state and the cherished virtue of His followers.

Saint Joseph was poor in the goods of this world. He possessed nothing in Bethlehem, the country where his ancestors had been kings. He lived in Nazareth, the poorest and most despised of cities.

Saint Joseph had no personal resources, but was obliged to live by his trade, a lowly trade, that of a carpenter.

So there was Saint Joseph, who by right of birth might have been a king—there he was, an ordinary carpenter, looking so insignificant that all of Bethlehem rejected him and relegated him to the meanest of shelters, a stable.

But Saint Joseph had the spirit and the grace of Jesus Christ's poverty. He was happy to share it; he preferred it to all the wealth and glory of this world.

Poverty, affective or effective, should be as dear to Eucharistic souls as it was to Saint Joseph. It is a bond of love that binds them to the tabernacle, to the adorable Host, and to Jesus, Who emptied Himself for love of men. Poverty is the grace and the glory of Eucharistic ministry; for, as the Gospel tells us, it is chiefly the poor, the lame, the cripple, the beggars whom we must summon to the householder's banquet.

Like Saint Joseph, Eucharistic souls should esteem, cherish, and practice holy poverty, be content with the necessities of life, and find in poverty the means of offering a sacrifice to the royal poverty of the Eucharistic God.

**Further question to consider:**

Do I sometimes find myself attached to the things of this world? Do I crave for a luxurious lifestyle and the attainment of worldly goods? Do I prefer the company of rich people over poor ones?

**Action Item:**

Ask St. Joseph to help you receive the grace to choose heavenly treasures over earthly things.

**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*