

## TWENTY-SECOND DAY

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

**April 20, 2021**

**St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:**

Saint Joseph's position in the Holy Family obliged him to command, but besides being the foster father of Jesus, he was also Jesus' disciple. For thirty years he watched the God-Man display a simple and prompt obedience and he grew to love and practice it very perfectly himself.

He never inquired where the orders came from, or who gave them, nor even why: without exception he submitted to God, to the civil rulers, and to the voice of conscience.

When God sends an angel to charge him with the care of Mary in spite of the mystery which surrounds her maternity and troubles his humility, he obeys; when he is told to flee into Egypt under painful circumstances well calculated to fill him with worry and anxiety, he obeys without the slightest word of objection. On his return he has no idea where to go; naturally he heads for Bethlehem since the Child had been born there and God had not revealed otherwise. Not until he has reached the very gates of Judea does God advise him in a dream to return to Nazareth. In every situation Joseph's obedience is as simple as his faith, as humble as his heart, as prompt as his love; it neglects nothing; it is universal.

He fulfills all his duties: duty before all-such is his rule of conduct.

To the civil rulers and to everyone who had authority over him he was obedient: their orders he looked upon as being the orders of God because he knew that they took God's place in the government of society. He obeyed all the laws without privilege or exemption, for he wanted to fulfill all justice.

Such ought to be our obedience, if we are to share in the merits of Christ's Eucharistic obedience. It should be our special virtue as servants. We ought to glory in observing the law without privilege like our Master and like Saint Joseph, our model. It should be our greatest desire and our supreme happiness.

**Further questions to consider:**

Do I undermine the decisions made by my managers or supervisors? Do I respect authority? Do I pretend to agree with authority and then still do things my way? Do I surrender to God's will in all things? Do I do things my way anyway?

**Action Item:**

Put a sticky note in a visible area on your desk or your place of work and mark it with 'Obedience.' Make an effort to look at the reminder daily to help you practice this virtue.

**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*