

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY

SAINT JOSEPH SUFFERED WITHOUT CONSOLATION

April 25, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

Let us compassionate the sorrows of Saint Joseph, meditate on them, and glorify him in his martyrdom. Hardly anyone thinks of it, and yet what tribulation he endured... his whole life was a constant crucifixion. We do not know all that Joseph suffered in his hidden life; but if God made Joseph so great in His sight, it was only after having humiliated him in his heart.

And what is peculiar to Saint Joseph is that he suffered without glory, without friends.

Saint Joseph, then, had to suffer without glory, without friends, without solace. No one knew the secret of his sufferings, and he could tell it to no one, for this secrecy was imposed by God. Furthermore, outside the Holy Family, he neither had nor could have any friends; he had to keep the Heavenly Father's will hidden within himself.

But did not the Blessed Virgin or our Lord console him? Their conversations with one another and with him always revolved on the Passion to come. Wishing through love to brand on Joseph's soul the image of the Crucified, Jesus willed not to be his consoler; He would be but the cause and the instrument of pain. As for Mary, she had to suffer as much as Joseph and more.

It is a great relief to have friends to whom we can unburden our souls; but to suffer with God alone, to confide in Him alone, and seek no other consolation than that of doing His will in all things, that is heroic holiness and sublime virtue formed and perfected, like Saint Joseph's, only by the purest love of God.

Further question to consider:

When I unburden my soul to my friends, do I commit the sin of detraction? Do I destroy other people's reputation especially by envious, malicious or petty criticism of others?

Action Item:

Pray this today: "St. Joseph, help remain silent in my sufferings so I can bind them to Jesus' cross. Amen."

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