



LAY WITNESS

Easter tide 2021

Vol. 39, No. 2

to unite the faithful from all walks of life in order to support, defend and advance the efforts of the teaching Church

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

“Grace to you, and peace from Him Who is, Who was, and Who is to come” (Rev. 1:4).

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostle’s Creed is the most ancient creed of our Faith commonly used in liturgy and prayer today. This profession of Faith is shared by all who are Christian.

Though not a part of Sacred Scripture, it is a summary expression of



what is found in Sacred Scripture. It constitutes an essential element of the Deposit of Faith. I once read that St. Augustine would encourage catechumens and all the Faithful to pray the Our Father and the Apostle’s Creed as their first words every morning and their last words each night. He would say that the Our Father is the prayer of Jesus and connects us to the Father through the Son. In turn, the Apostle’s Creed is our profession of Faith. Sacred Scripture commands us to proclaim the mighty works of God and give testimony to Him (Tobit 12:6). When we give testimony to God, we are made wise in God’s plan (Psalm 19:7) and we conquer in the Blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:11). Testimony is powerful, and when we use the Apostle’s Creed to give testimony, it strengthens us in Faith. I read about St. Augustine’s advice when I was in college. Ever since, I have begun my day with those two prayers. Adding to this, I have prayed the Apostle’s Creed during times of trial or confusion, and I am immediately strengthened in Faith and confirmed in Hope.

Crucifixion by Carlo Crivelli, c.1490

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Prayer of Catholics United for the Faith

O God our Father, who sent Your only-begotten Son to suffer and to give His life for the life of His Church, rule, protect, and nourish her continually, we beseech You. Teach us of Catholics United for the Faith to direct our zeal first of all to the renewal of our own hearts. Then, if it be Your holy will to allow us to be in any way Your instruments in the wider renewal of Your Church, give us the grace to know what services, small or great, You ask of us, and let the Holy Spirit teach us to perform them in obedience, patience, and charity, leaving entirely to You what fruits they may bear. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us.
St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family and Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

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There is a particular element of the Apostle's Creed that I reflect on each year during the Easter Triduum, and I want to share it with you. It is about the third descent of Jesus Christ, His descent into Hell. I know what some of you are thinking, what were His first two? His first descension was from the Father; a descension from God in Heaven to Earth (Jn. 3:13). His second was linked intrinsically to the first. Because He became a man in time, He had to have ancestors. He took flesh from the Blessed Virgin Mary and is descended from David (Mt. 1:6; Jn. 7:42), who in turn is descended from Adam, who in turn is from God (Lk. 3:38). His third descension was into Hell.

In many of the older, even ancient depictions of the Crucifixion of Jesus, we see a skull at the foot of the Cross. That skull represents Adam, the Father of the whole human race. Artists depict Adam's skull beneath the Cross to represent the Blood of Jesus cleansing all men of sin, even back to Adam. For me, the story is much more beautiful and is a testimony of Faith.

Before I go further, I want to share some things about our Father Adam. From ancient tradition, Adam and Eve are recognized as saints. In some European nations, their feast day is celebrated on Christmas Eve. It is believed that Adam never sinned again after the Original Sin. He deeply grieved the effects of his sin, and he was subject to watching the human race fall into complete depravity during his lifetime. Only one line of just men prevailed through his son Seth. It was through his son Seth that Enoch—who walked with God—and Noah would be born.

If you read Genesis 5 carefully, and do the math, you will see that Adam died just before Noah was born. Put another way, Adam was alive up until the generation of the Flood. He knew all his descendants in the line of just men until Noah. He also knew the great tragedies of man because of sin. He witnessed them. He knew he was to blame for sin entering the world and closing the Gates of Heaven.

Fathers of the Church, particularly the Eastern Fathers, write of Adam's death and that he entered into a deep darkness in Hell, awaiting the coming of the Just

One, the New Man, the Christ. He sat in the torment of that darkness, knowing the horrible effects of his one mistake, knowing the growing depravity of man, but waiting in Hope. He never lost Hope. He remembered the words spoken by God to the Serpent in the Garden, "*He shall crush your head*" (Gen. 1:15). This is the great Protoevangelium, the First Gospel, the First Proclamation of Christ to come, uttered by the Father at the moment of the Original Sin. Adam pondered those words in the darkness of his death, and he knew they were a proclamation of Hope. He knew they were a witness of the great mercy of God. He knew that in his infidelity to God, God would be faithful to him. He wept, but he wept with a great Hope.



Resurrection of Christ by Samuel van Hoogstraten, c. 1665–1670

Eve wept with him. She knew that by using her womanly wiles she tempted her husband instead of lifting him up. As they held each other in the darkness of death with the growing presence of evil around them, they wept for their Original Sin and lamenting the loss of so many souls, and they reminded each other of those comforting words, "*He shall crush your head.*"

At His death on the Cross, Jesus was accompanied by the New Woman, who used her persuasive power in testimony to His power and authority and introduce Him into public ministry (Jn. 2:1-11). As He died, He was enveloped in darkness. In His death, Jesus' Sacred Blood poured out onto the Earth. It sank deep into the

Earth, deep into Hell, onto the bones of our father Adam, and cleansed him. Upon His death, Jesus' soul descended into Hell, and He went looking for His father Adam, who was also a son of God.

On that remarkable day of Jesus' death, Adam saw a great light pierce the darkness. He heard a great shattering as the Gates of Hell were broken down. He saw the Just One, his descendant and the Son of God, approach him with words of comfort and healing (c.f. Malachi 4:2). The Hope of Adam was fulfilled. Jesus lifted him up from his death in darkness and led him to new life through the now open Gates of Heaven. All those in the line of Righteousness and Faith, followed them.

For her part, Eve was deeply comforted that a New Woman arose who would restore grace where she failed.

Eve led her husband into sin and followed him into Hell. The New Woman, the Blessed Virgin Mary, would lead the New Adam into His public ministry and follow Him to His Cross and Resurrection.

For our part, we live in the growing depravity of sin and darkness in our world. We are surrounded by the effects of our own sins and those of our family and friends. The growing presence of evil around us is frightening, just as it was for Adam as he sat in the darkness of Hell awaiting the fulfillment of his Hope. For our part, we have a greater knowledge and even a foretaste of Hope. We know Jesus has come, and we know His is risen. The Hope of Adam is fulfilled. We must only believe in faith what we profess with our lips.

During this great celebration of Easter, let us not forget the Hope of Adam. Our Light has come. The Gates of Hell are broken. The Just One is risen. The head of the Serpent is crushed. We have only to join the procession of the Righteous leading out of Hell and into Heaven. Jesus is at the head of this procession, and Adam is at His side.

God bless you; St. Joseph keep you; and a very blessed Easter to all!

Peace,

Philip C. L. Gray,
President

*This issue's lead article, printed with the gracious permission of the author, is excerpted from Fr. Donald Calloway's 2019 book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. To learn more about each of the topics mentioned in the article in much greater depth, and to benefit from the complete 33-day preparation to *Consecration*, purchase the book at ConsecrationToStJoseph.com.*

Consecration to St. Joseph

The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father

by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC

I did not understand him [St. Joseph] well enough, but that will change.¹

– St. Joseph of the Cross

In the 16th century, St. John of the Cross, one of the greatest mystics of the Church, humbly acknowledged that he lacked a proper understanding of the greatness of St. Joseph. Inspired by the tremendous love that his friend, St. Teresa of Avila, had for St. Joseph, St. John of the Cross made a firm resolution to get to know and love St. Joseph better.

What about you? Do you know St. Joseph? Do you feel you understand his greatness and love for you? Well, my friends, get ready! *Consecration to St. Joseph* is going to unveil the wonders of St. Joseph like never before!

Now is the time of St. Joseph!

It's a bold claim, I admit. Yet I truly believe that in our day the Lord wants to direct our hearts, families, parishes, dioceses, and Church to St. Joseph in a major way. This action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church has been gaining momentum for a very long time.

Don't get me wrong: Saint Joseph has always held a special place in Christians' hearts. Across the centuries, saints, popes, mystics, scholars, and the laity alike have praised and extolled the greatness of St. Joseph. In the 16th century the Holy Spirit used St. Teresa of Avila to bring about a greater awareness of St. Joseph in the Church. Even before St. Teresa, saints such as St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Bernardine of Siena, and St. Lawrence of Brindisi strongly emphasized the greatness of St. Joseph.

In more recent times, Blessed William Joseph Cham-inade, St. Peter Julian Eymard, Blessed Petra of St. Joseph, and St. André Bessette have kept devotion to St. Joseph prominent in the lives of God's people. Indeed, St. André Bessette initiated construction on what has become the world's largest church dedicated to St. Joseph – St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada. Saint José Manyanet, a priest in 19th-century Spain, fervently promoted devotion to St. Joseph and the Holy Family. He prophesied that a "time of St. Joseph" would soon arrive in the life of the Church. He wrote:

I believe that the true time of Saint Joseph has not arrived yet: after two thousand years we started only now to glimpse something of the mystery in which he is immersed.²

Well, my friends, guess what? Now is the time of St. Joseph! How can I state this with such conviction? Simple: God has given us clear indications that he wants his people to pay more attention to St. Joseph – clearer indications than in any previous era in Church history. In 1961, St. Pope John XXIII put it very bluntly. He wrote:

In the Holy Church's worship, right from the beginning, Jesus, the Word of God made man, has enjoyed the adoration that belongs to him,

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incommunicable as the splendor of the substance of his Father, a splendor reflected in the glory of his saints. From the earliest times, Mary, his mother, was close behind him, in pictures in the catacombs and the basilicas, where she was devoutly venerated as the “Holy Mother of God.” But Joseph, except for some slight sprinkling of references to him here and there in the writings of the Fathers [of the Church], for long centuries remained in the background, in his characteristic concealment, almost as a decorative figure in the overall picture of the Savior’s life. It took time for devotion to him to go beyond those passing glances and take root in the hearts of the faithful, and then surge forth in the form of special prayers and of a profound sense of trusting abandonment. The fervent joy of pouring forth these deepest feelings of the heart in so many impressive ways has been saved for modern times!³

What the Vicar of Christ clearly stated is that *now* is the time of St. Joseph. We are living in modern times, the time in which the Church is witnessing an unprecedented era of devotion to St. Joseph. According to St. Pope John XXIII, God desires devotion to St. Joseph to surge forth in our day in the form of special prayers of “trusting abandonment.” This means one thing in particular: *It’s time for total consecration to St. Joseph!*

Let me explain further about how God has been leading the Church to this moment.

In 2018, I published a daily devotional to St. Joseph entitled *St. Joseph Gems: Daily Wisdom on Our Spiritual Father*. In the introduction, I present a list of remarkable events – divine indicators, if you will – that have taken place over the past 150 years that show St. Joseph’s increasing importance in the life of the Church. They clearly indicate that we are living in an unprecedented time of St. Joseph. Here’s the list:

- 1868 – Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste, OP, writes a letter to Blessed Pope Pius IX asking him to declare St. Joseph the “Patron of the Universal Church.”
- 1870 – Blessed Pope Pius IX declares St. Joseph the “Patron of the Universal Church.”
- 1871 – Founding of the Josephites by Cardinal Herbert A. Vaughan
- 1873 – Founding of the Congregation of St. Joseph by St. Leonardo Murialdo
- 1878 – Founding of the Oblates of St. Joseph by St. Joseph Marello
- 1879 – Apparitions at Knock, Ireland. Saint Joseph appears with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Apostle, and Jesus (appearing as the Lamb of God).
- 1889 – Pope Leo XIII writes *Quamquam Pluries*, an encyclical letter on St. Joseph.

1895 – Blessed Petra of St. Joseph begins construction on a shrine to St. Joseph in Barcelona, Spain. It is consecrated in 1901. At her beatification in 1994, St. John Paul II calls Blessed Petra the “apostle of St. Joseph of the 19th century.”

1904 – Saint André Bessette constructs an oratory dedicated to St. Joseph in Montreal, Canada. It expands, is declared a minor basilica, and finally is completed in 1967. Today, it is known as St. Joseph’s Oratory and is considered by many to be the preeminent international center of devotion to St. Joseph.

1908 – Saint Luigi Guanella begins constructing a church dedicated to St. Joseph in Rome. It is completed and consecrated as a basilica in 1912.

1909 – Saint Pope Pius X officially approves the Litany of St. Joseph.

1914 – Saint Luigi Guanella founds the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Salvation of the Dying.

1917 – Apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. During the last apparition on October 13, St. Joseph appears holding the Child Jesus and blessing the world.

1921 – Pope Benedict XV inserts the phrase “Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse” into the Divine Praises.

1947 – Spanish Discalced Carmelites found *Estudios Josefinos*, the first theological journal devoted to St. Joseph.

1950s – The alleged apparitions of Our Lady of America given to Sr. Mary Ephrem emphasized a renewed devotion to St. Joseph, and St. Joseph himself speaks to the visionary about this devotion.

1955 – Venerable Pope Pius XII establishes the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, to be celebrated on May 1.

1962 – Saint Pope John XXIII inserts St. Joseph’s name into the Canon of the Mass (Eucharistic Prayer I).

1989 – Saint Pope John Paul II writes *Redemptoris Custos*, an apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph.

2013 – Pope Francis, echoing and fulfilling the intentions of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, inserts the name of St. Joseph into all Eucharistic Prayers. He also consecrates Vatican City State to St. Joseph.

Whoa! Did you know all that? Most people are unaware of these remarkable events. Without exaggeration, the Church has done more to promote St. Joseph in the last 150 years than in the previous 1,800 years of Christianity! But why now? Why St. Joseph?

There are many reasons, but I believe there are two that are especially important.

First, we need the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph to help us protect marriage and the family. Marriage and the family have always been under attack, but in modern times, the threats have reached extraordinary heights. Many people no longer know what it means to be a man or a woman,

let alone what constitutes a marriage and a family. Many countries even claim to have redefined marriage and the family. There is great confusion on these matters, greater confusion than in any previous era of human history. The Servant of God Lucia dos Santos, the longest-lived visionary of the Fatima apparitions, knew the seriousness of the times and made a powerful statement about this issue. She wrote:

The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about marriage and the family.⁴

To combat and overcome Satan's deceptions, the Church needs St. Joseph. His example and protection are the only way out of the confusing mess we are in. Who else can we turn to who can help us understand what marriage and the family are all about if not to the Head of the Holy Family and the Terror of Demons?

Second, the entire world needs to be re-evangelized, including the vast majority of baptized Christians. Saint Joseph was the first missionary. Today, he desires to bring Jesus to the nations. Many nations and cultures that were previously Christian have fallen away from their Christian roots and are on a path of self-destruction. Countries once established on Judeo-Christian principles have become overrun by ideologies and organizations that seek to strip society of all that is sacred. Without a major turnaround, civilization itself is going to self-destruct.

In an apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph in 1989, St. John Paul II reminded us of the necessity of invoking St. Joseph in the work of re-evangelizing the world. He wrote:

This patronage [of St. Joseph] must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization in the world and to re-evangelization in those lands and nations where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and are now put to a hard test.⁵

Now is the time to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! God is telling his Church that, in order to defend marriage and the family, elevate morals, recover lost ground, and win souls for Jesus Christ, we need to bring St. Joseph onto the battlefield. He is the Terror of Demons! With his powerful spiritual fatherhood, incredible love for his spiritual children, and constant intercession, the Church can be renewed as a light to the nations, a beautiful city on a hill (see Mt 5:14-16)!

What exactly is consecration to St. Joseph? In other words, what does it mean for a person to be consecrated to St. Joseph? Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely to his paternal care so that he can lovingly help you acquire his virtues and become holy. Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual

father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. Saint Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his loving attention, protection, and guidance.

Perhaps someone reading this has already consecrated themselves entirely to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is wondering if they can consecrate themselves to St. Joseph and entrust everything to him as well. The answer is a resounding "Yes!" God desires that all children be committed to the love and care of a mother and a father. You are not a member of a single-parent spiritual family. Mary is your spiritual mother, and St. Joseph is your spiritual father. The spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph is extremely important for your spiritual growth. Total consecration to Mary is not diminished by total consecration to St. Joseph. Mary wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Everything you have given to Jesus and Mary can also be given to St. Joseph. Be at peace. The Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph are one.

"How is consecration to St. Joseph done?" you ask. To be honest, there are an endless number of ways. A simple prayer of entrustment is sufficient. However, if you truly want to understand the greatness of your spiritual father, it is best to follow a thorough program of preparation and consecration. Such a program should cover St. Joseph's person, privileges, titles, and virtues, especially his paternal love for God the Son and the rest of humanity. *Consecration to St. Joseph* offers a comprehensive program of preparation and consecration to St. Joseph for individuals, families, parishes, and dioceses. Through this program, I hope to spark the first worldwide movement of consecration to St. Joseph!

Very Rev. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, STL
Vicar Provincial – Marian Fathers of
the Immaculate Conception
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, is vicar provincial and vocation director for the Mother of Mercy Province of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He is the author of 14 books, and leads pilgrimages to Marian shrines around the world. He resides in Steubenville, Ohio.

Endnotes

1 St. John of the Cross, as quoted in Stratford Caldecott, *The Chivalry of St. Joseph* (a talk given to the Knights of Our Lady on October 19, 2002), available at <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library>.

2 St. José Manyanet, as quoted by Sergio Cimignoli, SF, in "José de Nazaret y Josep Manyanet," available at <http://profetadelafamilia.blogspot.com/2017/03/jose-de-nazaret-y-josep-manyanet-por.html>. English translation courtesy of Miss Ileana E. Salazar, MA.

3 St. Pope John XXIII, *Le Voci* (For the Protection of St. Joseph on the Second Vatican Council), March 19, 1961.

4 Sr. Lucia dos Santos, "Letter to Cardinal Carlo Caffarra," *Voce di Padre Pio Magazine* (2008).

5 St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* (On the Person and Mission of St. Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church), no. 29, available at www.vatican.va.

Below is an excerpt taken from the decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, granting a plenary indulgence for this Year of Saint Joseph. I encourage you to read it carefully. There are several very beautiful ways to gain the indulgence, and special attention has been made to make the indulgence accessible to the homebound and those who cannot readily receive the sacraments of Communion and Confession at this time. I ask our members to share the decree with your family, friends, and parish. The spiritual benefit for the whole Church could be enormous if we avail ourselves of it. For more information and additional copies call 1-800-MY FAITH (693-2484).

DECREE

The gift of special Indulgences is granted on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph, announced by Pope Francis to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal Church.

...In order to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Guardian of Jesus, Pope Francis has established that, from today's date, the anniversary of the Decree of the proclamation as well as a day sacred to the Blessed Immaculate Virgin and Bride of Joseph most chaste, until 8 December 2021, a special Year of Saint Joseph will be celebrated, in which all faithful, after his example, may daily reinforce their own life of faith in complete fulfilment of God's will....

The gift of the Indulgences that the Apostolic Penitentiary kindly bestows during the Year of Saint Joseph, through this Decree issued according to Pope Francis' wish, will contribute greatly to the perfect accomplishment of the designated purpose.

The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted under the customary conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayers according to the Holy Father's intentions) to the faithful who, with a soul detached from any sin, shall participate in the Year of Saint Joseph, in the occasions and with the modalities indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary.

- **a.** Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew our devotion to prayer, to dispose ourselves to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will. The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted to those who shall contemplate the Lord's Prayer for at least 30 minutes, or participate in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day which involves a meditation on Saint Joseph;
- **b.** The Gospel attributes to Saint Joseph the appellation "just man" (cf. *Mt* 1:19): he, guardian of the intimate secret that lies right at the bottom of the heart and soul", depository of the mystery of God and therefore an ideal patron of the internal forum, spur us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and integrity in carrying out our duties. The virtue of justice practiced by Saint Joseph in an exemplary manner is full adherence to divine law, which is the law of mercy, "for it is the very mercy of God that brings true justice to fulfilment". Therefore those who, after the example of Saint Joseph, shall fulfil a work of corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will likewise be able to attain the gift of the *Plenary Indulgence*;
- **c.** The primary aspect of Saint Joseph's vocation was that of being guardian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus. In order that all Christian families may be inspired to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was lived by the Holy Family, the *Plenary Indulgence* is granted for the recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among betrothed;
- **d.** The Servant of God Pius XII, on 1 May 1955 instituted the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties". Therefore the *Plenary Indulgence* may be obtained by those who shall daily entrust their life to the protection of Saint Joseph, and all faithful who shall in-

voke through prayer the intercession of the Worker of Nazareth, so that those in search of work may find employment and the work of all people may be more dignified;

- e. The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt “shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment”. The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted to the faithful who shall recite the Litanies to Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to Saint Joseph, in their entirety or at least some part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, proper to other liturgical traditions, in favour of the Church persecuted *ad intra* and *ad extra* and for the relief of all Christians who suffer any form of persecution.

...To reaffirm the universality of Saint Joseph’s patronage over the Church, in addition to the aforementioned occasions the Apostolic Penitentiary grants the *Plenary Indulgence* to the faithful who shall recite any prayer legitimately approved or act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, for example, “To you, O Blessed Joseph”, especially on the occasions of 19 March and 1 May, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on the Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition), on the 19th of every month and every Wednesday, the day dedicated to the Saint’s memory, according to the Latin tradition.

In the current context of the health emergency, the gift of the *Plenary Indulgence* extends particularly to the elderly, the sick, the suffering and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, and who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention to fulfil, as soon as possible, the three customary conditions in their own home or wherever the impediment detains them, shall recite an act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, Comfort of the Sick and Patron of a Happy Death, faithfully offering to God their suffering and the hardships of their life.

In order to pastorally facilitate the attainment of divine grace through the power of the Keys, this Penitentiary prays earnestly that all priests endowed with the appropriate faculties may offer themselves with a willing and generous soul to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and often administer Holy Communion to the infirm.

This Decree is valid for the Year of Saint Joseph, notwithstanding any disposition to the contrary.

Given in Rome, from the See of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 8 December 2020.

Cardinal Mauro Piacenza
Major Penitentiary

Krzysztof Nykiel
Regent

Help Wanted

CUF is seeking a full-time Information Specialist to join our staff at the international offices in Hopedale, Ohio (near Steubenville). Successful candidates must possess an unwavering Catholic Faith, a working knowledge of Catholic doctrine, strong organizational and communication skills, and be able to work both independently and with a team. Helpful qualifications would include a degree or background in Philosophy or Theology with research experience. Interested applicants should submit a resumé with a detailed cover letter that introduces one’s qualifications. Applications should be mailed to CUF’s International Office, Attn: Therese Valentine or emailed to administrativeassistant@CUF.org

CUF LINKS

Chapter News

Considering starting a CUF chapter, but not sure how to get it off the ground? Contact our office to schedule an in-person visit with CUF President, Philip Gray. He is eager to speak on CUF's mission, learn about the

situation in your area and what is driving you to organize, and brainstorm with you about ways a CUF chapter could help bring about the restoration you want to see in the Church.

Information Services

The Church recently celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, when the angel Gabriel delivered the invitation to the Blessed Virgin Mary to become the Mother of her Lord, and she, to her redounding glory, said yes. Did you know that St. Joseph was also given an

Annunciation to which he gave his own yes? To learn more, contact our office and request our *Dreaming the Impossible Dream: The Annunciation of St. Joseph* FAITH FACT.

St. Joseph Foundation Update

Many dioceses in North America prohibit reception of Holy Communion on the tongue. Both apostolates have received numerous inquiries from members, who want to know what they can do to exercise a posture consonant with the law, tradition, and spirituality of the Church. Despite the many documents, both legal and nonlegal texts, which enshrine reception of Holy Communion on the tongue, many of the canonical cases are met with silence or worse, dismissal, both by the bishop involved and the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments. In this situation, the faithful must make decisions which cause anxiety—Do I attempt to receive on the tongue and risk being denied the Blessed Sacrament? Do I receive on the hand or refrain until I can once again receive on the tongue? Is this right?

What can I do?

The Foundation has worked with clients to pursue various strategies: recourse against the prohibition itself (the provisional norm) or recourse against the denial of Holy Communion because a person attempted to receive on the tongue (the harm caused by the provisional norm). The silence or dismissal seems to be a uniform deference to the competence of the bishops. None of these cases have been fully adjudicated in Rome.

Until such cases receive proper adjudication, for Latin Rite Catholics, there are four options open to them outside a legal contention in Canon Law. For information on these options, please contact CUF's Information Services. -Natasha

Yakin' About

We ask that all of you keep Mrs. Madeleine Stebbins in your prayers. Husband and wife H. Lyman and Madeleine Stebbins were instrumental CUF's founding and served as CUF's first and second presidents, respectively. Their efforts have impacted countless lives and contributed, I am sure, to the salvation of many souls. At 97, Mrs. Stebbins is patiently bearing the sufferings that accompany this final stage of life and would very much appreciate the prayers.

The Saint Joseph Foundation is actively seeking a full-time Case Administrator to join our staff at the apostolic offices in Hopedale, Ohio (near Steubenville).

Successful candidates must possess an unwavering Catholic Faith, strong organizational and communication skills, and be able to work both independently and with a team. Helpful qualifications would include a degree or background in law, Canon Law, Philosophy, Theology, or a Human Services field. Interested applicants should submit a resumé with a detailed cover letter that introduces one's qualifications. Applications should be mailed to The Saint Joseph Foundation, 85882 Water Works Road, Hopedale, OH 43976, Attn: Philip Gray.

Got an announcement? If your event is CUF friendly, and we have space to spare, we will gladly post it here!