

**Joseph, the spouse of Mary, is only the foster-father of Jesus.**

St. Gregory the Great tells us that Christ is the Son of God, not only because He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, but also because God formed His sacred humanity. In the first promise of the Redeemer as we read it in the Protevangelium Christ is called, not the seed of man, but the seed of the woman (Gen. iii. 15), and in the genealogy of Christ recorded by St. Matthew, no mention is made of His descent from Joseph, but only from Mary (Matt. i. 16).

Yet Christ was commonly thought to be the Son of Joseph (Luke iii. 23). Mary was espoused to St. Joseph that no accusation might be made against her by the world, and that she might have in him a protector.

**About St. Joseph we have the following facts:**

He was a carpenter (Matt. xiii. 55);

He was a just man (Matt. i. 19).

St. Jerome tells us he was perfect in every virtue, and St. Thomas Aquinas gives as the reason for his holiness that he was so close to the fount of holiness, just as the spring is clearer as we approach its source.

St. Francis of Sales tells us that St. Joseph was conspicuous for his purity, and therein surpassed all the saints and even the angels.

To him was granted the honor which kings and prophets sighed for in vain; he might take his Lord into his arms, kiss Him, speak with Him, clothe Him, protect Him (St. Bernard).

He was called father by Him Whose Father was in heaven (St. Basil).

Many saints assert that St. Joseph has a very high place in heaven as the spouse of the Blessed Virgin, and that he will be called upon by men in the last days of the world and give signs of his great power.

St. Joseph is the patron of the Church (Pius IX., Dec. 8, 1870); i.e., his prayers for the Church have great efficacy at the throne of God.

He is also the patron of a happy death, dying as he did himself in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

He is also invoked for temporal wants, since his care on this earth was the support of the Holy Family.

St. Thomas Aquinas says that St. Joseph received power from God to help in all necessities; and St. Teresa declared that no prayer of hers to St. Joseph in temporal or spiritual need was ever left unanswered.

The Catholic Church has always honored St. Joseph in a special manner, after Our Lady and above the other saints.

Only Jesus Christ and His holy Mother were free from original sin.

St. John the Baptist (Luke i. 15) and probably the prophet Jeremias (Jer. i. 5), were born without sin, having been cleansed from sin in their mothers' womb, but they were not conceived without sin.

Some believe that St. Joseph was also born free from sin, having been cleansed from sin in his mother's womb.

### **Act of Consecration to St. Joseph**

O Blessed Saint Joseph!

I consecrate myself to your honor and give myself to you,

that you may always be my father, my protector

and my guide in the way of salvation.

Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life.

After your example may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

And do thou, O blessed Joseph, pray for me that I may experience

the peace and joy of thy holy death.

Amen.