

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions



SAINT JOSEPH SPOUSE OF MARY

By THE REV. WILLIAM A. DOHERTY, C.S.S.R. (The following article written in anticipation of the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, is by Father Doherty, Redemptorist priest in charge of the Wednesday Novenas in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help now being conducted at St. Joseph's Church, Rochester.)

It is well understood that when God calls anyone to an exalted state He equips that one with the necessary qualities. This fact however does not imply that God does everything and leaves the individual at leisure. The call rather imposes a more serious obligation on the chosen one of striving for the virtues necessary to that God-given vocation. Our Blessed Lady knew from the very beginning the great dignity that was to be hers and she knew what that meant for her, the sublime virtues, the unspeakable hol-

ness, the stupendous self-sacrifice that should invest Divine Motherhood. Thus Her early life was a preparation for that and Her later life was spent in always perfecting those virtues. We know this because She herself confided this information to St. Elizabeth in a revelation. She said that no grace and no virtue was received from God without great effort, constant prayer, ardent desire and many tears and penances. It was somewhat different with Saint Joseph. It was not until after he had espoused the Virgin of Nazareth that he became acquainted with the sublime vocation to which God had called him. And we all know the extreme anguish he endured before this the knowledge was afforded him. But God does not give His precious gifts indiscriminately and without reason. He had set His heart upon this humble but illustrious son of David and wanted him for the spouse of His Son's Mother.

A Just Man

What was it that so attracted God to Saint Joseph if not his virtues and scrupulously polished perfection of life? Very little is recorded of that life. There were no flaunting of glamorous deeds and chivalrous achievements. There were no "best sellers" by ancient authors that held his life up to the public eye. There was no need of any of that sort of thing because the Holy Ghost had uttered the praise of this outstanding character. And when the Holy Spirit speaks it is not in the hurry of words that bewilder the mind and in the end leave it vacant of thought, but He speaks simply, truly, convincingly. The inspired writings have said all when they call Saint Joseph a just man.

If we had lived with him he would have given us unlimited material for a startling biography. If we had had admission to the Holy Home of Nazareth we would have seen this admirable man fulfilling his role as husband to the Mother of God, as foster-father to the Child of prophecy. We would have seen him at his toilsome labors, bending over the work-shop bench at which he purchased with his industry the daily nourishment for his Holy Charges. This sweet-tempered man would resist from that drudgery and offer us the inspiring hospitality that is imitated even to this day in the homes of Christian families. We would be amazed at the loveliness of humility as it blends with the strong virile qualities of manhood. The purity of his beaming countenance would open Heaven to our eyes and we might understand how Christ in later years would preach that the pure of heart see God, for the soul of Joseph must have been filled with the vision of the God-head.

Least Among Greatest

How we would marvel at the charity of this man as it poured itself out in every word and deed; in every look cast upon the objects of his love. His whole demeanor would hold us spell-bound, grip us, thrill us and in the end lead us on to imitation. But he would be unaware of this impression he had made upon us. He would be heedless of it, else except that he was leading us to the Other Two Members of that hallowed home—He was but the least among the greatest. And our thoughts would be so paralyzed with the contemplation of the virtues of this least of men that they would fail to function at the sight of the Mother and Son. "We would

leave that He gazed at the greatness of a mere man.

The Holy Ghost said all of that and infinitely more when He inspired the holy writer to tell us that Joseph was a just man. Count the volumes that have been written about Saint Joseph within the past decade. Perhaps they are innumerable according to the reckoning of the ordinary mind, but all that has been put into books about the foster-father of Jesus is simply an amplification of the words "a just man." What is justice in the spiritual life of anyone but the conformity of thoughts and actions to the law of God. And Joseph's entire life was patterned upon that Law of God. Otherwise he would have been chosen as the Guardian of God's greatest treasures on earth. If there were even a microscopic blemish upon his character that suggested an imperfection, I think God would have sent an angel to protect them if no other man could be found for the office.

Jesus and Mary must have shared this high regard of the Trinity for Saint Joseph. See how they confide in him—how trustfully they obey him. What must have been Mary's opinion of him whom God had selected for Her? She who would have sacrificed the undreamed of honor of being God's Mother upon the untainted altar of Her virginity. God favored her desire to preserve this at all costs and would she endanger it now by becoming the Spouse of a reproachful man? Mary's union with Saint Joseph is his highest human praise, second only to the ecstasies of the Spirit of Love and Holiness. Indeed then no was a just man whose soul was imbued, nay saturated with every virtue and perfection.

Patron of Happy Death

Saint Joseph comes into our lives through Jesus and Mary. Mayhags we have been led, some of us, to them through Saint Joseph. He departed this life ere the shadows of Calvary crept over the earth and into the hearts of his Child and Spouse. His death is the model placed to our view for our imitation. To die in the embrace of Jesus and Mary is the heart's desire of everyone of us, so the Church has added this to the many cares of Saint Joseph, making him the patron of a happy death. How beautifully he fulfills this task. How many souls has he not led the Divine Mother and Child.

There is a little story now recast in my mind, clamoring to be told. So tell it I must. It is true according to very reliable authority. There is a priest, still living, that had ever cherished an ardent devotion to Saint Joseph. Priestly in his thoughts and actions, he was also priestly in his devotions. He invoked the Saint constantly for his patronage over the dying. One night he was aroused by the door-bell. Opening the door he beheld a man of remarkable men, neatly groomed and very courteous. He requested the priest to accompany him to a certain hospital to attend a dying man. The two walked side by side, neither of them speaking a word. Christ was with them who see they reached the hospital and the man led the way to the ward. He pointed out the patient and the priest went in. Much to the priest's amazement the patient was not very happy to see him. "Who sent for you?" was the greeting. "I thought you did," replied the man of God. It seemed that the man in bed had no one that was dear to him, no one that cared whether or not he died with the strength of the Sacraments upon his soul. However the priest succeeded in reconciling him to the Church and left him in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

No One Sees Him

On going out of the ward the priest accosted one of the nurses and inquired who had sent for the priest. After much inquiry he was still ignorant of the charitable person's identity. No one at the hospital had even thought about it for they presumed the man was not of the Catholic fold. In fact, as I recall the incident, no one had seen anyone enter with the priest.

That night as the priest coaxed sleep the wonderment of it all preyed upon him. Like an inspiration the picture of Saint Joseph came into his mind and the mystery was solved as far as he was concerned. He remembered how the stranger had disappeared so suddenly after pointing out the bed. Then it became clear why no one had seen the man enter the hospital with him. Simply, Saint Joseph keeping long vigil over the dying. We have so many favors that we could ask of this great Saint but the one that we all could ask with immense profit to our souls is the one that he likes best to grant—a true love and devotion to Her whom he himself loved and venerated while on earth. We could ask for nothing better. Whom would our Blessed Lady listen to more readily than the one that provided for Her and the Divine Child during their sojourn on earth. God linked their names together. Let us never separate them. Let Jesus, Mary, Joseph be the Little Trinity in our lives on earth so that those lives may be replete with happiness and holiness and be certain of one day enjoying the hallowed beauties of the Blessed Trinity in Heaven.

SECOND INDIA PILGRIMAGE Tutorn, India.—(NGWC)—One Archbishop and four Bishops will accompany the second India Pilgrimage to Rome, the Archbishop of Madras and the Bishops of Kumbakonam, Tutorn, Kottar and Frincomele. They will be in the Eternal City for Easter.

CANONIZATION BRINGS JOY TO CHARITY NUNS

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itual daughter to St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent, learning of her love for the poor, asked Mile, Le Gras to superintend the numerous Confraternities of Charity which he had established throughout the Empire.

The object of these Confraternities was to visit the sick and the poor in their homes. St. Vincent had received several young women who generously offered their services to the poor, and Mile Le Gras undertook to train these pioneers in works of charity. On November 29, 1633 under the guidance of Blessed Louise, a group of these Servants of the Poor, as they were called, began a more thorough training in spiritual matters. The congregation of Daughters of Charity known throughout the world, grew from this humble beginning.

During this time Blessed Louise's son, Michel Le Gras, was being educated by the Clergy of the Seminary of St. Nicholas, St. Vincent de Paul, too, found time to take a paternal interest in the youth. He later studied law and became the King's Councillor at the Cour des Monnaies.

The sisters added to their original work of helping the poor, the founding of a shelter for abandoned infants, and the teaching of children who were hitherto neglected. In 1640, the Daughters of Charity assumed complete charge of St. John's Hospital, Angers.

In 1655, Blessed Louise composed the Rule of the Little Company. St. Vincent reviewed it and added a few suggestions to the document. A meeting of the Sisters was held at Blessed Louise's home, and St. Vincent addressed the following remarks to his assembled Spiritual Children: "Your convent will be the house of the sick; your cell, a life room; your chapel, the parish church; your cloister, the streets of the city, or the wards of the hospital, your enclosure, obedience; your grating, the fear of God; your veil, holy modesty."

Their habit consisted of the blue gown and white collar worn by the peasants of the Ile de France section; for a head-dress they wore a small white cap, and over this a large starched white-winged bonnet which was also part of the peasant costume of the seventeenth century. At the beginning, the white bonnet or "Cornette" was worn by the members whose home had been in the Ile de France section, and in 1665 it became the distinctive head dress of all the members. This habit is still worn by the present members of the Congregation throughout the world.

Much to her regret Blessed Louise had to discontinue wearing the cornette later in life as she became very sensitive to the cold. In place of the cornette the co-foundress adopted for her use a modified form of the widow's head-dress of her time.

From the beginning of the year 1660 Blessed Louise's health had failed, and, after receiving the Apostolic Benediction she passed away Monday, March 15, in the presence of her sorrowing Spiritual Children. She had previously been visited by her son Michel, his wife, and their little daughter.

St. Vincent de Paul who was unable to be present at the death of Blessed Louise due to his infirmities, passed away September 27, 1660, aged 84 years. Louise de Marillac was declared venerable in 1895, and in 1920 Pope Benedict XV, solemnized her beatification.

There are now 42,500 Daughters of Charity laboring in 4,000 establishments throughout the world. Of these, 2,130 Daughters of Charity direct 226 separate works in the United States. There are two Provinces in the United States; the Eastern-Central, or Provincial House is located at Emmitsburg, Md.; the Western Provincial House has its headquarters at St. Louis. The two American Provinces originated from the Little Community of Mother Seton, who founded the first native American community at Emmitsburg, in 1809. Having secured the permission of Archbishop John Carroll, Mother Seton wished to unite her community with the Daughters of Charity of France. Conditions in France prevented the union during Mother Seton's lifetime, and the affiliation took place in 1850.

John J. Eckhart Enters General Insurance Field John J. Eckhart has entered the general insurance business at 731-733 Lincoln-Alliance Bank Building. Mr. Eckhart was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia, Pa., and entered the insurance business 19 years ago in the home office of one of the country's largest casualty insurance companies. He was held representative for that company for many years and later became branch office manager. He has successfully operated as branch office manager in Rochester for a number of years and more recently entered direct production. He is familiar with every known kind of insurance and bonds and should be in a position to render adequate coverage and service to insurance buyers of Rochester.

Charity Nuns Here Mark Canonization of Co-Foundress

Sisters of Charity in Rochester observed the canonization of the co-foundress of their order, Blessed Louise de Marillac, Sunday in Rome by attendance at solemn services in St. Mary's Hospital Chapel.

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, as the order founded by St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac, is known; Vincentian priests from Niagara University, priests of the diocese and friends of the Sisters were present. St. Louise de Marillac's life was recounted in an eloquent sermon by the Rev. William J. Mahoney, C.M., of Niagara University. Solemn Benediction was imparted by the Rev. Emmott Dougherty, chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, assisted by the Rev. Joseph Illig, C.M., as deacon and the Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, of Rochester, subdeacon. Representatives of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy were also present.

Honor Students Head Niagara U. Division Students Council Here

Three Rochesterians and a Fairport resident today head the student body of the Rochester Division, Niagara University located in Columbus Circle Center Building.

Edwin J. McNamara, No. 53 Curtis Street, is president of the student council. Dean of Students John H. Wilkinson announces McNamara has maintained the highest scholastic average in the school for the past term, by obtaining an average of 95%.

Three others who had averages higher than 85%, and hold the offices of vice-president, secretary and treasurer, are respectively Herbert Gorcey, William C. Knaut and John D. Blum. Other members of the council are elected but the four offices each term are granted to the highest ranking scholars.

Knaut and Blum, who is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Blum, No. 856 Jay Street are Aquinas Institute graduates and Gorcey, who lives in Fairport is a graduate of that town's high school. McNamara, a graduate of the University of Rochester is working for a Certified Public Accountant's degree.

The honor roll of the school for the past semester included the following eleven: Edwin J. McNamara, Herbert W. Gorcey, William C. Knaut, John D. Blum, William J. Frank, Fred J. Graef, William J. Rahn, Lewis Dietz, Glenn D. Kunz, and William D. Gasser. All maintained averages higher than 85%.

ELECTED PRESIDENT Auburn.—John Welch, son of Martin E. Welch, president of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Church, and Mrs. Welch of 14 Tux-ill Square, has been elected president of his fraternity in his senior year at Mechanics Institute, Rochester.

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Archbishop and Priests Keep Holy Hour Marking Close of Holy Year

The International Eucharistic Congress Commission with the approval of the Holy Father has suggested that the priests throughout the world mark the close of the Holy Year by meeting together for a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

In response to this suggestion Archbishop Mooney designated Thursday afternoon of this week at 3:30 o'clock for the Holy Hour in the chapel of St. Bernard's Seminary, Priests of Monroe County assisted with Archbishop Mooney during the hour as an act of devotion to the Eucharistic Lord during which there were prayers, and a meditation on the Saviour's sufferings and death.

Faithfulness is a woman's most beautiful adornment and her strongest weapon in the battle of life. The soul has this proof of its divinity, says Seneca, that divine things delight it.

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Advertisement for Rochester Savings Bank. 1831—Rochester's Oldest Financial Institution—1934. NINE CHURCHES Living largely upon faith and hope, the early settlers of Rochester soon turned to the organization of their churches. The oldest religious society in Rochester, the First Presbyterian Church, was organized in 1815 when the population here was but 331. The second oldest is St. Luke's Church, founded in 1817. Then came the First Baptist, 1818; First Methodist, 1820; St. Patrick's, 1821; Brick Church, 1825; Third Presbyterian, 1826; St. Paul's, 1827; First Unitarian Society, 1829. These churches were formed before Rochester became a city. They had their beginnings directly or indirectly in or near the 100-acre tract—the original Rochester. For more than a century they have been neighbors of the Rochester Savings Bank, the Bank which like these churches, was organized before Rochester became a city. Thousands of our depositors are members of these same century-old friends. We invite you to have a savings account, too. Learn why— THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A SAVINGS ACCOUNT. Resources Over \$68,000,000.00. 1831—STRENGTH AND SECURITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS—1831

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