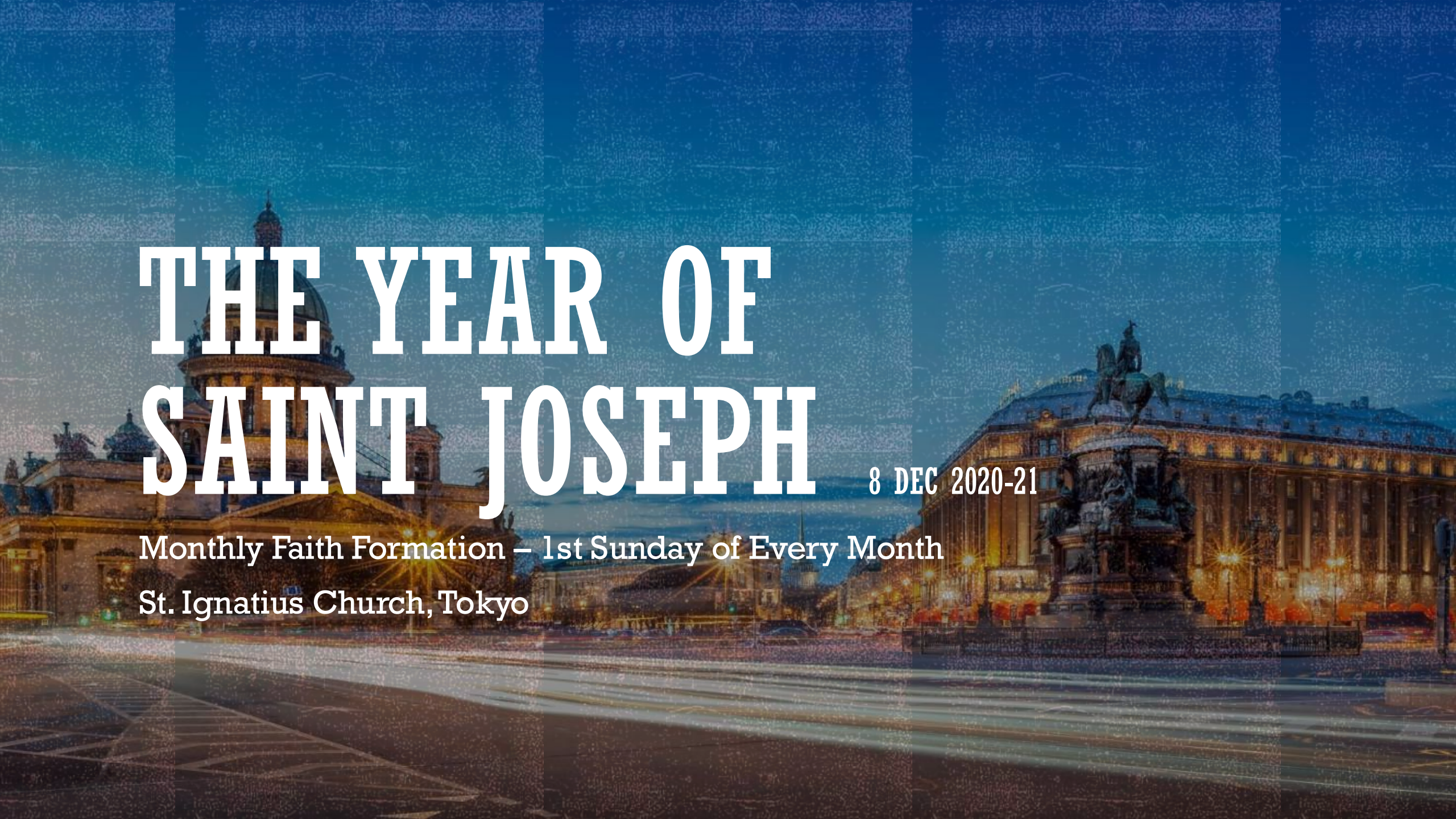


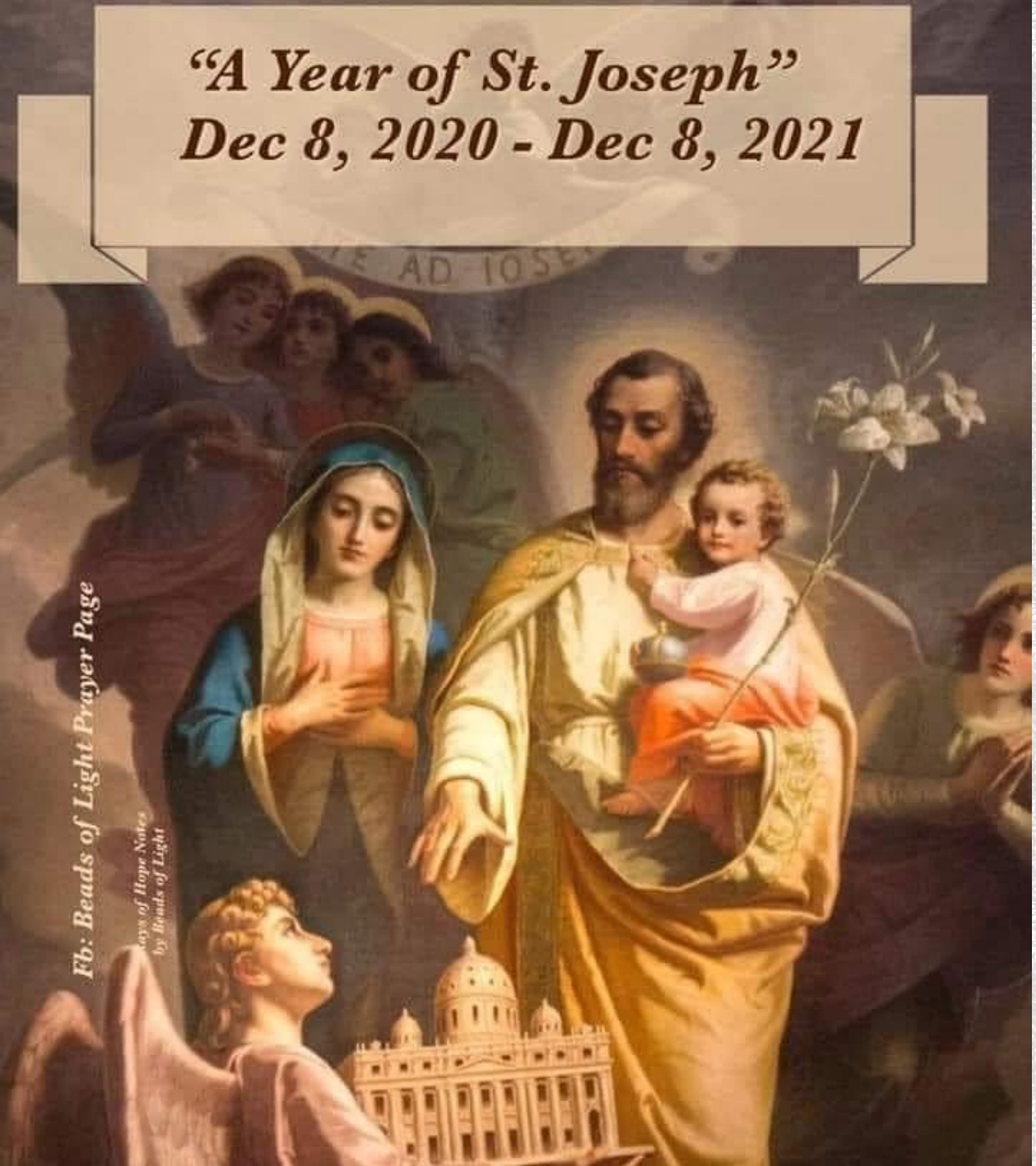
THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

8 DEC 2020-21

Monthly Faith Formation – 1st Sunday of Every Month

St. Ignatius Church, Tokyo

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

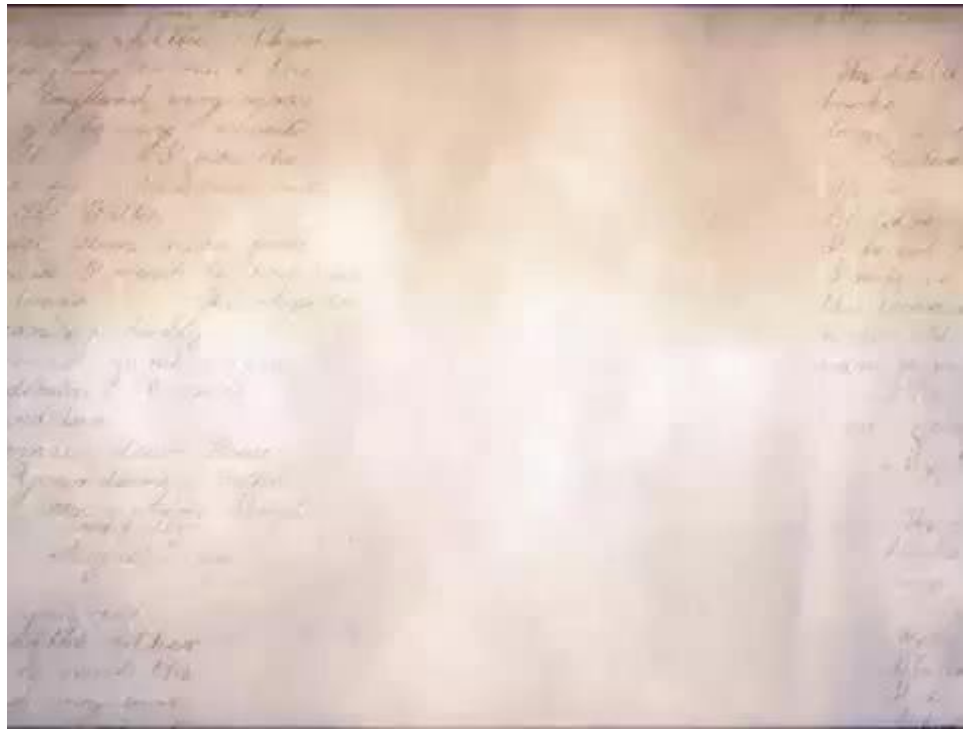


YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

- ***PATRIS CORDE***
  OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS link
- **Consecration to St. Joseph – Fr. Donald**
- **16 indulgences**
- **St. Joseph - Terror of Demons**
- **Sleeping St. Joseph**
- **Litany of St. Joseph**
- **Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph**

INTRODUCTION

Rome Reports



St. Joseph – Patron Saint of Catholic Church, unborn children, fathers, immigrants, workers, employment, explorer, pilgrims, travellers, carpenters, engineers, realtors, against doubt and hesitation, and of a happy death, Belgium, From the State of Ceará and the city of Macapá in Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Korea, Indonesia, Zapotlan in Mexico, Vietnam, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Mandaue City, Bailen, Cavite, Cebu, Philippines, and many others.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SAINT JOSEPH

Disovering the Saints - St. Joseph the Worker

PATRIS CORDE

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

LINK

- Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (*Mt* 12:34). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone… How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all".[6] Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

PATRIS CORDE

OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

LINK

- ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

- 1. *A beloved father*
- 1. *A beloved father*
- 3. *An obedient father*
- 4. *An accepting father*
- 5. *A creatively courageous father*
- 6. *A working father*
- 7. *A father in the shadows*

PATRIS CORDE

A BELOVED, TENDER, OBEDIENT FATHER

LINK

- Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.
- And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St. Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).
- Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated… in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

PATRIS CORDE
WELCOMING THE WILL OF GOD

LINK

- At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history.
- Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that *explains*, but accepts" — which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

PATRIS CORDE
A CREATIVELY COURAGEOUS FATHER, EXAMPLE OF LOVE

LINK

- *Patris corde* highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.
- In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn… to love the Church and the poor" (5).

PATRIS CORDE

A FATHER WHO TEACHES THE VALUE, DIGNITY AND JOY OF WORK

LINK

- "A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes.
- Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!" (6).

PATRIS CORDE

A FATHER "IN THE SHADOWS," CENTRED ON MARY AND JESUS

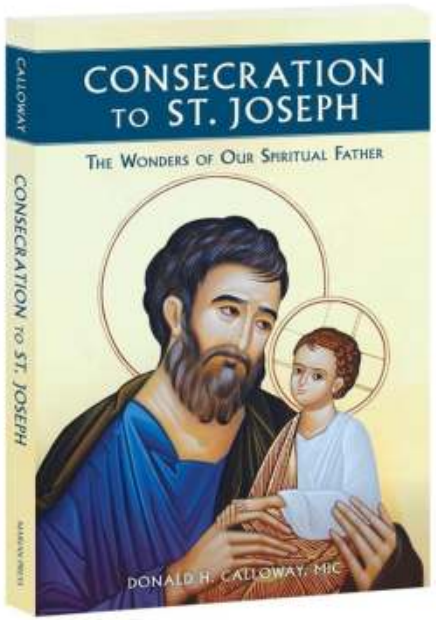
LINK

- Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."
- "Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."
- This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."
- Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."
- True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father" (7).

PATRIS CORDE
A DAILY PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH… AND A CHALLENGE

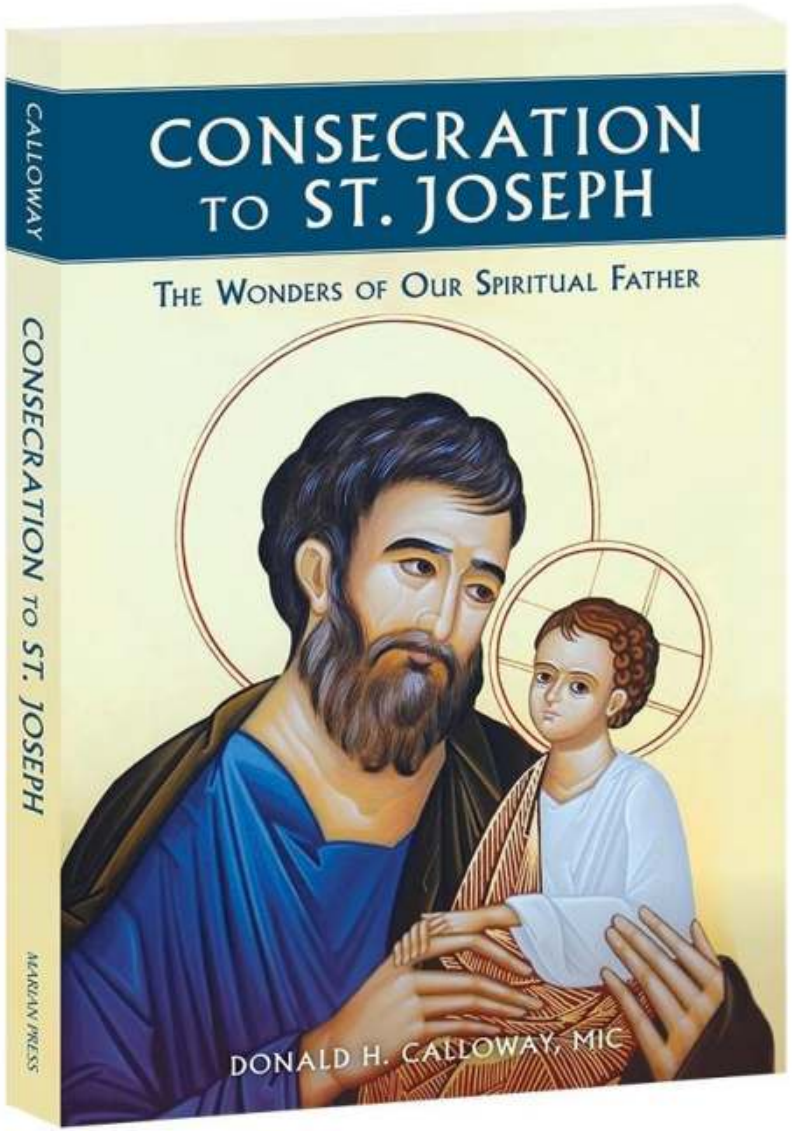
LINK

- In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."



CONSECRATION TO SAINT JOSEPH

- Fr. Calloway



CONSECRATION TO SAINT JOSEPH

- In the midst of crisis, confusion, and a world at war with the Church, it's time to come home again to our spiritual father, St. Joseph. In this richly researched and lovingly presented program of consecration to St. Joseph, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, brings to life the wonders, the power, and the ceaseless love of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and the Terror of Demons.

16 INDULGENCES

How to gain an indulgence

16 INDULGENCES

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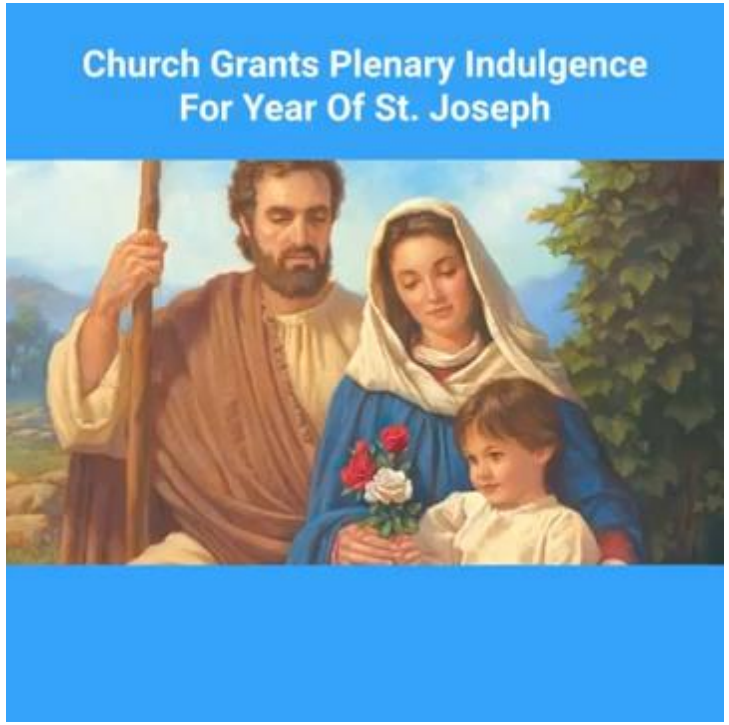


ST. JOSEPH TERROR OF DEMONS

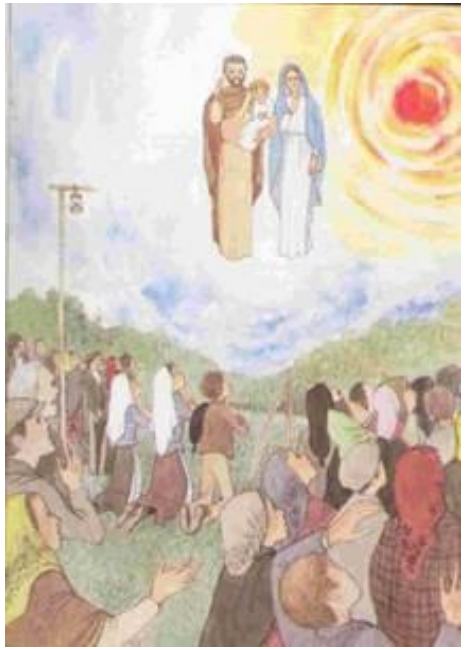
An Explanation

St. Faustina on Devotion to St. Joseph

"I am displeased when a soul yields to vain terrors. Who will dare to touch you when you are with Me? Most dear to Me is the soul that strongly believes in My goodness and has complete trust in Me" (453).

"Saint Joseph urged me to have a constant devotion to him. … He has promised me this special help and protection" (1203).

- Diary of St. Faustina



APPARITIONS OF ST. JOSEPH

- St. Joseph, 'Terror of Demons', is a Powerful Man Indeed

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

Help from St. Joseph.

SLEEPING ST. JOSEPH

Meditation

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

- **Pope Francis' Prayer to Saint Joseph**
- Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
  Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
  To you God entrusted his only Son;
  in you Mary placed her trust;
  with you Christ became man.
- Blessed Joseph, to us too,
  show yourself a father
  and guide us in the path of life.
  Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
  and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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