

**UNUM OMNES XCOM MEETING
AT CASA BONUS PASTOR, VIA AURELIA
208 00165, ROME
29TH NOVEMBER 2022 – 2ND DECEMBER
2022
PRESENTATION OF APOSTOLIC LETTER
PATRIS CORDE OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS.**

INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

What are the major issues affecting a Catholic Man of our time?

Do Our Christianity still guide our culture or much of it has been washed away by modernization or civilization?

What lessons do we learn from St. Joseph, and how does it help us in our daily lives ?

LOOKING UP TO HIM AS OUR ROLE MODEL

On the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal church With a Father's Heart

Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church Patron Saint of all Catholic Men, to celebrate his life and times is the blessing to the universal church.

WHO IS ST. JOSEPH TO US?

- **Joseph was a lowly carpenter. (cf. Mt 13:55)**
- **Betrothed to Mary (cf, 1:8, Lk 1:27)**
- **He was a “Just man” (Mt. 1:19)**
- **Ready to carry out God’s will (cf Lk 2:22, 27, 39)**
- **Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (Mt 1:21)**
- **As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or thing, as Adam did in the account in the book of Genesis. (cf. 2:19-20)**
- **Was to establish a relationship**
- **Presented Jesus to the temple forty days after his birth. (Lk 2:22-25)**

FEW CHALLENGES OF HIS TIME

Protected his family from Herod – had to live in Egypt as a foreigner (cf. Mt. 2:13-18)

Lived a hidden life in the village of Nazareth in Galilee far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the temple.

Was said of Nazareth “No prophet is to rise “ (cf. Jn 7:52)

Can anything good come out of Nazareth? (Cf. Jn 1:46)

During pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year old Jesus they found him in the temple after searching for him. (Cf. Lk 2:41-50)

JOSEPH'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF SALVATION

Father of Jesus Christ.

Patron of Catholic Church declared by Pope Pius IX

Patron of workers – proposed by Venerable Pius XII

Guardian of the redeemer – John Paul II

He is universally invoked as the patron of a happy death

JOSEPH'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF SALVATION

150 year since blessed Pius IX (8th December 1870)

In celebrating 150 years since the proclamation of St. Joseph as the patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX, Pope Francis inspired by the happens of the recent times, shares with the whole world some reflections on this extra-ordinary figure who is so close to our own human experience.

Pope Francis points out the inter dependence of human beings.

Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, who are often overlooked.

People who don't appear in news papers and magazines headlines, in television shows

Participate in shaping the decisive events of our history.

- **Doctors**
- **Nurses**
- **Store keepers**
- **Supermarket workers**
- **Cleaning personnel**
- **Caregivers**
- **Transport workers**
- **Men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious etc..**

JOSEPH'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF SALVATION

- Each of us can discover in Joseph;**
- The man who goes unnoticed – discreet and hidden**
- Presence**
- An intercessor**
- A support and guide in times of trouble.**
- St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.**

1. A BELOVED FATHER

The greatness of St. Joseph is that he:

- **Was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus.**
- **Placed himself “at the service of the entire plan of salvation (St. John Christopher)**
- **Expressed his fatherhood “by making his life a sacrificial service to the ministry of the incarnation and its redemption purpose.”**
- **Employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work.**

1. A BELOVED FATHER

The greatness of St. Joseph is that he:

- **He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home.**
- **His spirituality and life have continued to inspire many people in salvation history as witnessed.**
- **Countless churches dedicated to him worldwide.**
- **Numerous institutes, confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name.**

2. A TENDER AND LOVING FATHER

- As the Lord has done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus.**
- Taught him to walk taking him by the hand.**
- He was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks.**
- Bending down to him and feeding him. (Cf. Hos. 11:3-4)**
- In Joseph Jesus saw the tender love of God.**
- As a father has compassion for his children, the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him. (Ps. 103:13)**

3. AN OBEDIENT FATHER

- God revealed his loving plan to Joseph by use of dreams.
- Was Obedient to God's call
- Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy.
- He did not want to expose her to public disgrace, so decided to dismiss her quietly. (Mt. 1:19)
- Joseph's response was immediate when the angel helped him to resolve his grave dilemma concerning Mary's pregnancy. (Mt. 1:20-21)
- Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.
- Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved, when the angel tells him to go to Egypt with Mary and the child away from Herod. (Mt. 2:13) (Mt. 2:4-15)
- Jesus' parents observed all the prescriptions of the law. The rites of the circumcision of Jesus, the purification of Mary after childbirth, the offering of the firstborn to God. (Cf. 2:21-24)
- Do we still follow our culture or much of it has been washed away by modernization or civilization?
- In every situation, Joseph declare his own "Faith," like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.
- In his role as the head of the family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents. (Cf. Lk 2:51) and in accordance with God's command. (Cf. Ex. 20:12)

4. AN ACCEPTING FATHER

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally.

He trusted in the Angel's word.

Unlikely to Mary, Joseph openness as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man.

Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life.

In our world today, we see psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women.

In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment

How do we react in life the things that happen to us that we do not fully understand?.

- Behaviour change of our child
- Strong in faith yet challenges.
- Active members yet family challenges.

4. AN ACCEPTING FATHER...cont

- **Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion.**
- **Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events.**
- **Though seemed mysterious, embraced them, took responsibility for them past of his own history.**
- **The spiritual path Joseph traced for us is not one that explains, but accepts.**
- **With acceptance, reconciliation, we now grasp a deeper meaning.**
- **Joseph is certainly not positively recognized, but courageous and firmly proactive.**
- **In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude.**
- **Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.**

5. A CREATIVELY COURAGEOUS FATHER

- Creative courage is the way we deal with difficulties.
- In the face of difficulties, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it.
- At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.
- Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption.
- He was the true “Miracle” by which God saves the child and the mother.
- God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage.
- Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God to come into the world. (Cf. Lk. 2:6-7)
- Faced the threat of Herod to kill the child, took flight to Egypt. (Cf. 2:13-14)
- Sometimes it may be seen as the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty.

5. A CREATIVELY COURAGEOUS FATHER

- **Good news of the Gospel is that God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as Joseph.**
- **We are not abandoned by God – but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative and find solutions ourselves.**
- **Such creative courage was shown by the friends of the paralytic, who lowered him from the roof in order to bring him to Jesus to be healed. (Cf. Lk 5:17-26)**
- **Friends had a creative faith.**
The Holy Father had to face concrete problems like every other family, like many of our migrant brothers and sisters who today too risk their lives to escape misfortunes and hunger.
- **And that is why St. Joseph is regarded as the special patron of all those forced to leave their native land, because of wars, hatred, persecution and poverty.**

6. A WORKING FATHER

- **The social encyclical of Pope Leo XIII's Rerum Novarum gives enough emphasis of St. Joseph's relation to work.**
- **St. Joseph was a carpenter who earned a honest living to provide for his family.**
- **From him Jesus Learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.**
- **In our own day, employment/ unemployment is the major social issue.**
- **How to renew the dignity of work as Joseph did.**
- **Work 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.**
- **An opportunity to fulfill oneself, family and society.**
- **Working persons, whatever their job may be, as cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.**
- **The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultured and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to re discover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about "normal" from which no one is excluded.**

7. A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS.

The Polish writer Jan Dobraczynski, in his book *The Shadow of the Father*, tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in form of a novel.

He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph.

In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way.

Fathers are not born but made.

A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for the child.

Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers.

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality.

A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous.

It imprisons, constricts and makes _____

God himself loved humanity with a chaste love.

He left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him.

The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to Love with extraordinary freedom.

He never made himself the center of things.

He did not think of himself, but focused entrusted on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

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7. A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS.

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- **It imprisons, constricts and makes for misery.**
- **God himself loved humanity with a chaste love.**
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- **The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to Love with extraordinary freedom.**
- **He never made himself the center of things.**
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PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH.

Oh blessed St. Joseph, 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 grew up to be a 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.

Our Father.....Hail Mary..... Glory be to the father.