

Third Sunday of Easter
Second Sunday after Easter (Latin Mass)
St. Joseph the Worker, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Confessor
May 1, 2022
Year of Saint Joseph

“After Jesus and Mary, Joseph was in the mind of God for all eternity as one who would one day be created to play a part in our salvation.”

(Dominic De Domenico, O.P., True Devotion to St. Joseph and the Church, p.69)

Through our desire to gain a deeper knowledge of Saint Joseph, we have dedicated the third weekend of each month as our time to reflect upon his life and example. Our monthly reflections unite us with previous generations. In their quest, they found it necessary to set certain days aside to honor Saint Joseph. Today, May 1, is one of those precious days. Today the Catholic Church honors Saint Joseph, the Worker.

We would be remiss if we were to only honor Saint Joseph, the Worker due to his work as a manual laborer. He was, by trade, a carpenter. Living in an age before power tools, precision instruments, and home repair stores, Saint Joseph would have worked considerably harder and longer to accomplish the same task a well-trained carpenter could more easily accomplish today. Yet we know that Saint Joseph was much more than just a manual laborer. As discussed previously in these reflections, he was a vital component in the work of mankind’s redemption through his marital union with Mary, Mother of Jesus/God. It is as a mediator for fallen humanity where Saint Joseph finds his most beneficial work.

When the term “mediator between God and humanity” is mentioned, we are right to immediately think of Jesus. We may also see Mary as a mediator, through her Divine Motherhood. I am not certain that we have been encouraged to think of Saint Joseph as another “small” mediator between God and humanity. Allow me to offer you a rather simple example of the work of Saint Joseph as mediator, using an example I recently found helpful to my own understanding.

To set the stage for our example, you may recall the desire of many to build a bridge from our side, the western side, of Mobile Bay to the eastern shore. The proposed new bridge would relieve interstate traffic slowdowns thereby reducing the stress of the daily commute for many local drivers. It would also allow for commerce to flow more freely through our area; avoiding needless I-10 tunnel traffic slowdowns. Now using this example, let us understand the Redemption of Humanity and the role of Saint Joseph.

God and mankind are the two lands separated by a body, not of water, but a body consisting of mankind’s sinfulness. This gulf did not always exist, but would form as a result of

the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden. For our redemption to occur, these two lands (God and mankind) would have to be joined — a bridge needed to be built. This great bridge would need to be able to unite humanity and divinity perfectly. This great bridge must be His own Divine Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Divine Mind of God, He knew that this great bridge of His Son must funnel humanity to Himself, and He to humanity. He also knew this great bridge must be perfectly constructed to allow for the volume of traffic from His side to ours; we are speaking of the graces which would be merited by the Passion of Jesus. Like many construction projects, God needed to have an architect and a foreman. The Holy Spirit would perfectly fill these roles. Next, He would need a manufacturing center where supplies could be produced which would allow for the great bridge to be perfectly constructed. Mary, the Virgin Mother of Jesus/God, would become that beautiful center where the Holy Spirit would oversee the construction of the great bridge. Now, only one thing is left for the project to begin. There must be a site for the bridge to connect to. This site must be one which is aligned with the rest of sinful humanity, yet perfectly suited to receive the great bridge. This site must be Saint Joseph. The work of Saint Joseph which continues to our day is his continuing to be a site where God and humanity meet. As the child Jesus was presented to Saint Joseph by Mary, so Saint Joseph presents Him to us.