

***Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost (Latin Mass)
August 21, 2022
Year of Saint Joseph***

“As the generation of a child is the foundation of natural fatherhood, so, with a certain similarity, cooperation in the redemption of humankind is the foundation of the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph regarding the human race.”

(Dominic De Domenico, O.P., True Devotion to St. Joseph and the Church, p.81)

In the first half of this year dedicated to St. Joseph, we took our time to reflect upon the role of Saint Joseph as both husband to the Blessed Virgin Mary and as foster-father to the child Jesus. Last month, we spoke of the death of Saint Joseph. Although not specifically stated in Sacred Scripture, we were able to judge this too as a reality due to both the honor given to a father and the role of a wife at that time. As we begin to shift our gaze upon the heavenly workings of Saint Joseph, we must continue to view everything we profess concerning Saint Joseph as being fundamentally grounded in his place in the Holy Family.

With this stated, I would like to further remind you of a point made last weekend. The point was this – God wants to raise you up from the dry cistern of spiritual stagnation using the ropes of ordinary people, things, and events. God uses you to assist Him in reminding others of their elevated dignity and God uses others to remind you of your elevated dignity as His beloved child. As Catholics, we hold this Biblical principle of God wanting us to live with Him eternally in Heaven close to our hearts. Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Thessalonians summed it up quite nicely in one sentence: *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification.”* (1Thessalonians 4:3). For generations of young Catholics, this point was stressed in their Baltimore Catechism lessons with this easy-to-understand questions and answers: *“Q. Why did God make you? A. God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.”* (Taken from the Baltimore Catechism, Vol. No. 1).

As we profess each time we recite the Creed, Jesus, the Divine Son of God, was born, suffered, died, and rose again to redeem humanity in its fallen state. It is Jesus who is the One True Mediator between God and man. The Catholic Church has always believed and taught this doctrine. Only Jesus is able to offer Himself up to His Father as the perfect sacrifice to bridge the gulf caused by mankind’s willful disobedience to God. As Jesus is the Redeemer of humanity, the Holy Spirit is sent by Him to sanctify humanity through His gifts and His Divine Guidance of Jesus’ catholic (little “c” which means universal) church. We fully profess that the Catholic Church is guided by the Holy Spirit and what she (the Bride of Christ) believes and teaches is what the Holy Spirit instructs for our sanctification. The

graces present in other non-Catholic Christian denominations for the sanctification of their members is first found in and through the Holy Spirit's guidance and Our Savior's abiding presence in our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Although these statements have been true since the time of the Apostles themselves, they may both cause confusion and injure feelings now-a-days. Many, maybe some here, were raised to hold parts of these truths. Truths whose original teachers, now long since dead, only subtracted from what was held and taught. I use all of this as an introduction into the heavenly role of Saint Joseph. And, not solely of Saint Joseph, but of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels, and the Saints as well. All of these, both angel and man alike, now assist the Holy Spirit in this work of our sanctification through their powerful intercession. We must delve into the role of the Intercession of Saint Joseph, and in doing so, the Holy Spirit's revelation, through the Catholic Church, regarding the intercession of the saints. Now you all have something to look forward to next month.