

***Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin Mass)  
September 18, 2022  
Year of Saint Joseph***

*“The Council of Trent has declared that the mediation of the saints in no way opposes or diminishes the supreme and universal mediation of Christ. Nor is this mediation due to any deficiency on God’s part, but rather it serves to show forth His great goodness and perfection.”*

*(Dominic De Domenico, O.P., True Devotion to St. Joseph and the Church, p.94)*

As a quick refresher from last month’s reflection of Saint Joseph, we had begun to lay a foundation concerning the heavenly intercession of Saint Joseph through an examination of the intercession of the angels and saints. The great theologian, Saint Thomas Aquinas, wrote that the angels and saints not only mediate for us, but they are also conscious, due to their union with God, concerning what we truly need. Through the glory they possess with God in heaven, angels and saints are cognizant of our prayers and devotions which allows them to act as “co-workers” or “co-operators” assisting God with our salvation.

Holy Mother Church teaches that the most powerful intercessor of graces for anyone, second only to her Son Jesus, the source of all grace, is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Blessed Virgin Mary has received this privileged honor as a consequence of her being the mother of our Savior and the degree of charity which is present in her soul. The second most powerful intercessor, as taught by the Church, would be Saint Joseph. He would receive this honor due to his position as foster-father of Jesus and the degree of charity present in his soul. Remember, God is willing to gift individuals all the graces necessary to complete the mission which He offers them in this life. Furthermore, you may think this silly, but Jesus obeyed His parents while they lived on earth and continues to show them profound love and respect by obeying them in heaven. We also know that Mary and Joseph would only intercede for those things which are most in union with the Divine Will of God.

The intercession of Saint Joseph is taught as being one which is universal. Unlike other saints, from whom we ask assistance in particular instances or for specific needs (Saint Peregrine – cancer), the universal effective intercession of Saint Joseph is exhibited in three ways. These ways are: they are effective for (1) all needs, (2) all peoples, and (3) all graces.

Although there may be some who would question as to where in either the Bible or the Catechism does it speak of the universal intercession of Saint Joseph, we must rely upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit and use our own reasoning to arrive at this conclusion. In times such as these, I find it more difficult to formulate a statement as to why this could not be possible (more so than just saying “I disagree”) as opposed to why it makes so much

sense. As I say so often, “greater minds than mine” in the Church’s history have pondered these things and arrived at these conclusions. Why can Saint Joseph intercede for all people to attain all graces to meet all their needs? Most simply, his love for God and his being a child of fallen Adam just like us. Harkening back to an earlier image we used of a bridge joining two separated locations, Saint Joseph, by his birth, was a fallen man, like us, in need of salvation. In his person, he represents all fallen mankind. As our representative, Saint Joseph shows us what great heights a fallen man can arise to when he chooses to obey the Will of God. Yet, Saint Joseph is not content in just showing us what is possible. His deep love of his son, the Eternal Son, impels him to desire all mankind obey and follow Jesus. Saint Joseph’s heavenly intercession is for all mankind to be saved for that is what honors his Son most perfectly, and, as a foster-father for you and I, he will ask God for those things necessary which will benefit us to love and serve his Son, our Lord Jesus, until we join the ranks of the angels and saints in heaven.