

St. Joseph Day Reflection

I'll begin this homily with a reflection I read in my daily devotional yesterday:

God Calling, 3/18

And as God would have it, again today:

God Calling, 3/19.

So timely.

Trust. We must trust that God has this. And trust so much that we don't just believe it. We know it.

Since my consecration to the Blessed Mother, which I made while in Fatima back in October, my mantra has been "Jesus, through Mary, I trust in You!" I say it all the time, in every circumstance. It's on the lawn sign in front of Church.

On this feast of St. Joseph, let's consider this patron saint of trust. Example after example in the New Testament shows evidence of Joseph's calm, considerate, and God-fearing trust, including:

- Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is

through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus.” Do not be afraid. Trust!

- Joseph carefully taking Mary to Bethlehem when a census was ordered. Trust!
- Being devotedly at Mary and Jesus’ side during the visits of perfect strangers, shepherds and Magi. Trust!
- Being pensive and no doubt an amazed witness when Jesus was presented to Simeon and Anna at the Temple.
- Unquestioningly paying heed to more dreams from the angel of the Lord, cautiously taking Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod (Trust!) and then returning to Nazareth when it was safe. Trust!
- Finally—and this is the last mention of Joseph— anxiously helping Mary search for Jesus for three days in the hectic city of Jerusalem. Trust!

The little we know about Joseph is that he experienced heartbreak, fear unto death and a parent’s deepest anxiety. Yet Joseph’s nature offers inspiration for a strong, quiet confidence in the Lord. There is never a sense of chaos or disarray about him. Even when he didn’t

understand and things seemed illogical, he completely trusted and let God guide Him.

And as foster father of the Son of God, and spouse of the Holy Virgin, I'm quite sure Joseph's mantra was, over and over again, "Jesus, through Mary, I trust in you."

During this time of possible chaos and disarray, we need to enter into the quiet of this pandemic. Each day, more distractions are being removed:

- ✓ Non essential business closed
- ✓ Social distancing
- ✓ Staying home
- ✓ Possible shelter in place.

Though not caused by God's will, (although I'm expecting some illogical self-proclaimed theologian to state this pandemic is God's wrath upon some subset of society, like they pinned Hurricane Katrina as God's will – such nonsense), God's will is so powerful He can bring much good from evil. And God will use this time for good. We may not know the good right now, but we "trust" He will.

St. Joseph, patron saint of trust, pray for us.

Jesus, through Mary, I trust in you.