



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

### The World of Finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



### St. Joseph the Worker + the Blessed Virgin = a match made in Heaven

This the Year of St. Joseph so we focus on him yet again this month with his feast day on May 1 as well as honoring Mary our Mother and all our earthly moms, too. Joseph was a man, a real person like you, who had big troubles in his life, like thinking his new bride was unfaithful (Matthew 1:19), being scared that his child was lost (Luke 2:41-52), and fleeing the country when his child was in danger (Matthew 2:13). Joseph trusted God when times were tough. He was also a hard worker. We are called to work as a way to participate in God's creation. People should be able to find fair work as a matter of human dignity.

St. Joseph is a powerful intercessor for us. Mary, Joseph, and God the Father are the only ones who can address Jesus as "Son". That's pretty special! Any good son would want to do what his parents ask of him, if they are asking a good thing. Jesus is certainly a good son to Mary and Joseph, and He will surely not ignore any request they make. So put your prayers in their faithful care and ask them to present your requests to Jesus. You will have peace knowing that our Mother (mothers know us so well!) and the Patron Saint of the Universal Church will ask the Son to look kindly on you and hear your prayer.

# A Children's Chocolate Activity

## MATERIALS

Fair trade chocolate. Visit [ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide](http://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide) to order chocolate for this activity.

## ACTIVITY

- Explain that today you will learn what fair trade is and how it can help us live our faith.
- Ask students how their family gets money to pay for the things that they need. After hearing their answers, reiterate that we are paid for the work we do. With that money, we are able to buy the things that we need to survive—like food, water, housing and clothes. Say that there are many people all around the world who work hard but still don't earn enough money to provide the basics for their families.
- Then, ask the class if they like chocolate. Explain that cocoa—what chocolate is made of—comes from the cacao plant. Cacao is a delicate plant and has to be cultivated by hand. Most cacao is grown on small family farms in western Africa. The majority of these farmers are so poor that they have not even tasted chocolate because it is too expensive!
- **Read Elias' story:**  
Today we meet 13-year-old Elias Yeboah-Aslamah. Elias lives in Ghana, a country in western Africa. He has lots of friends and loves to dance. Besides dancing, Elias also enjoys school. He can go to school because his mom and dad are part of a cocoa farmer organization called Kuapa Kokoo. This group of farmers even owns their own chocolate company, Divine Chocolate! Farmers from Kuapa Kokoo make enough money from selling cocoa to take care of their community by building schools and providing school supplies. It might seem strange that going to school could give

somebody deep joy, but Elias knows that going to school will provide a bright future full of promise. It's like rejoicing in God's promise, the promise that John the Baptist points to by announcing the coming of Jesus Christ.

- **Ask:**
  - What did Elias' parents do for work?
  - Why was Elias able to go to school?
- Share that when parents have earned enough money from work, they can afford to do things like send their children to school. Because we are all created by God, we all deserve to be able to find jobs that pay us enough money so that we can afford the things we need for a good life.
- Offer the children a piece of chocolate. As they eat it, ask them to describe what it tastes like.



## PRAYER

Lead a prayer for Elias and his family, and pray that all people will have the opportunity to find fair work.

## IF YOU ONLY HAVE 10 MINUTES

Read Elias' story. Reflect: Why is it important for Elias to go to school? How can we help kids like Elias?



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