

14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Ordinary Time. 7/7/2021

**Joseph, figure of Christ.**

In the readings for daily Mass, we have been hearing about the Patriarchs. These are the immediate descendants of Abraham. We hear about how God is at work in their lives and how the promises of God start to unfold.

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, had twelve sons, who start the twelve tribes of Israel. We hear today about Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob.

The brothers were envious of Joseph, so they plot to kill him. But Judah, one of the brothers, advocates for him so they end up selling him as a slave. Joseph is brought to Egypt where he is a victim of false accusations and thrown

into jail. But eventually his abilities are recognized, and he is made governor of the country. He would prepare the country for an upcoming famine, and then administer the grains they had stored, to save the people from starvation.

He saves the people of Egypt, but not only Egypt. We hear that the famine had gripped the whole world, and all the world came to Joseph to obtain rations of grain and survive. His brothers, the sons of Jacob, also came for food. And in this way the children of Israel are saved from starvation. They are saved, and they are also reconciled, as the brothers start to feel remorse for the way they had behaved years earlier and eventually they recognize and embrace each other. They are reconciled, and they are also reunited, as they come to live in Egypt and bring their

elderly father who would spend his last days in the company of all his children.

Reading this story as Catholics we find in Joseph a figure of Christ, who was accused falsely, rejected and killed, but then He was exalted to the right hand of God to rule over the kingdom of heaven, and he dispenses unending graces to every person who approaches him to ask. He saves the world from spiritual death, and he feeds us with his own body to give us everlasting life.<sup>1</sup>

As in the time of Joseph in Egypt, there is hunger in our families, in our country, and in our world. But Jesus has in store abundant graces to help us get through difficulty, and to bring reconciliation and union with our brothers

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<sup>1</sup> John Bergsma, Brant Pitre, *A Catholic Introduction to the Bible: The Old Testament*. Ignatius Press, 2018. pp 157-158.

and sitters. Let us approach him with faith and humility. Let us open our hearts to receive all the good that he wants to give us, to sustain us in times of difficulty, and to be his collaborators in bringing his life-giving love to the world.