

ST. JOSEPH, A BELOVED FATHER

REFLECTION FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

In the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis identifies the extraordinary attributes of St. Joseph as a "beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively-courageous, working father hidden in the shadows." (cf. No 1-7). The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops have prepared a series of guided reflections on each of the seven attributes. You may use these as individuals, families or in groups gathered in person or online.

PRAY

Beloved St. Joseph, you inspire us to be people of faith. You devoted your life to the care and nurture of the child Jesus and Mary, His Mother. You gave yourself wholly in service to the will of the Father. With Mary, you promoted our salvation that reaches its fulfillment through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Guide us, beloved St. Joseph, that we may do the will of the Father freely and without reservation just as you did.

We make our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen

WATCH

In this video, Fr. Michael DeLaney, CCS, Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory, Montreal QC reflects on St. Joseph as a beloved father. He considers questions such as:

- Who is Joseph?
- What is his role for the universal Church/or/life of Jesus?
- How do we know he is beloved?

REFLECT

Journal or reflect quietly on what you have heard.

Take some time to consider:

- How did you first learn about St. Joseph? Who taught you?
- Why is St. Joseph beloved? How does his life inspire us to reach out to and care for the poor and oppressed?
- St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of Canada. How can he help us to be a more just and compassionate nation?

If you are reflecting with a group, include a personal reflection time and then open it up to discuss St. Joseph's as a Beloved Father.



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PRAY

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.'

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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