

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH - JUNE

ST JOSEPH: ADDING A NAME

Confirming Pope Benedict XVI's desire, Pope Francis decreed on 1 May 2013 that the name of St Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, be added in Eucharistic Prayers II, III and IV. Before that, on 13 November 1962, Pope John XXIII had established that his name be inserted into the Roman Canon, alongside Mary's name and before those of the Apostles.

Pope John XXIII himself, wishing to entrust the Second Vatican Council to Jesus's earthly "daddy", wrote the Apostolic Letter *Le Vocì* in 1961. In it, he included a sort of summary of devotion to St Joseph nurtured by his predecessors. These are not merely ambiguous aspects of liturgical "bureaucracy". Each new decree demonstrates an ever more deeply rooted ecclesial sense and awareness, which with Pius XII even touched civil life.

"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."