

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH - AUGUST

ST JOSEPH: “A RISK-TAKER”

Even though Pope Paul VI's name was not Joseph, from 1963 to 1969 in particular, a year did not go by in which he did not celebrate Mass on the Solemnity of 19 March. Every homily he delivered on that occasion was a personal “portrait” of how fascinated he was by St Joseph's “complete submission and dedication” to his mission, of the man who was “timid perhaps”, but gifted “by a superhuman greatness that enchants”. Even though having a bride like Mary and a Son like Jesus made him a stranger among his peers, he did not retreat. About this, Paul VI said in 1969:

St Joseph was, therefore, a man who was ‘committed’, as they say now, to Mary, chosen from among all the women on earth and all of history, always his virgin bride, not physically his wife, and to Jesus, by virtue of legal, not natural, descent, his offspring. His were the burdens, the responsibilities, the risks, the little preoccupations of the small and singular holy family. His were the service, the work, the sacrifice, the penumbra of the evangelical scene in which we like to contemplate him. And certainly, not wrongly so, now that we know everything, we call him happy, blessed. This is the Gospel. In it, the values of human existence assume a different value than that which we are accustomed to appreciate: here that which is small becomes great.

“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.”