

A Letter from the Governing Board of Pastors

Monsignor Sangermano, Holy Saviour Parish

Long before there were “National Donut Days” and the like, the Church dedicated various days, known as feasts, and devotional months, to honor various aspects in the lives of Our Lord, His Mother and His saints. We are now in the month of March, which the Church has traditionally dedicated to Saint Joseph, whose feast we celebrate on March 19 (Be sure to wish Father Quindlen a Happy Feast day!).

Saint Augustine (354-430) described, in Latin, the mysteries of our Faith as being “semper nova, semper antiqua,” ‘ever ancient and ever new.’ They are ever ancient because they come to us from Truth itself, as Our Lord described Himself, which never changes, but they are always new because they can be applied to every age. This is so unlike the fashion, fads and “buzz words” of the moment, which invariably become irrelevant.

Saint Joseph, who lived, of course, 2,000 years ago, is a special model for our time. In this age of the loud, of the shallow, of constant talk, he is the model of quiet fidelity to one’s vocation. God willed that no words of his are recorded in the Scriptures, so that his deeds will shine on their own merit: his obedience to God’s commands, even when they were difficult to understand; his loving protection and care of his wife; his immediate response to the dictates of the angels, who appeared to him to instruct him according to God’s plan. Most especially, he is called the *vir fidelis*, the ‘faithful man.’ Mother Theresa reminded us that God does not ask for success, but He does ask for fidelity.

In our own time, the ‘ever new’ qualities of Saint Joseph are in demand. Let us ask him, in this his month, for the grace of quiet fidelity in place of loud show. Something else will be given us besides. Saint Joseph is the Patron of a Happy Death. We read in the last book of the Bible: “Be faithful unto death, and you will receive the crown of life.”

God Bless,

Monsignor Sangermano