

Thursday, March 19, 2020;

**Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Psalm 88(89):2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matt 1:16, 18-21, 24/ Luke 2:41-51a

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home...”

Amidst life’s uncertainties, Joseph, Jesus’ foster father, stayed close and lived by God’s instruction, faithfully shepherding his family step-by-step through many struggles and hardships. Given the circumstances under which Joseph took up responsibility for both Mary and Jesus, many people would bail out or act halfheartedly. But not so for Joseph. God chose him for that role. He fulfilled it completely according to God’s will. Not much is said about him after Jesus’ childhood, apart from the information that he was a carpenter by trade. He had finished his work.

Fathers, mothers, children, and families, have a lot to learn from Joseph. Family is God’s gift and we must fulfill God’s will by playing our respective roles faithfully and generously. As we face very difficult and uncertain times worldwide, Joseph teaches us that God and family are important companions for the journey ahead. We must rely on God. We must journey together as family and take care of one another. We must be selfless in our commitment. God will lead the way through the twists and turns, and in the end, we will be better for it.

St. Joseph, Patron of Christian Families, Pray for us. Amen.

Fr. Maurice Igboerika