

In the last few weeks over thirty million Americans lost their jobs, and are now unemployed. It is nothing less than catastrophic for our beloved country, and an undeniable tragedy. The human cost of the pandemic virus is devastating. If nothing else, the recent turn of events has underscored the importance of work, and the necessity of returning our out-of-work Americans to their former place of employment.

Traditionally, the first of May is dedicated to labor and the worker. On this feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the Church reminds the world of the sacredness of man's labors. Work is part of God's loving plan, and is fundamental to the dignity of the human person. One must never overlook the spiritual dimension of our daily labor.

It is worth noting that today's feast was introduced by one of the popes in the first half of the twentieth century in response to atheistic communism's May Day celebrations in honor of workers.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read, "In work the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labor stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for man, not man for work. "Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community" (CCC#2428).

Saint Joseph is the patron saint of workers. What distinguishes this great saint from all those who espouse a materialistic, secular view of man is that all his work was done for the greater glory and honor of God.

St. Joseph, model of workers, pray for us!