

LENTEN PARISH MISSION: "LENT WITH SAINT JOSEPH"

Saint Peter Catholic Church • North Saint Paul, Minnesota

February 24, 2021

PREACHER: Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.

Morning Lenten Retreat
Lent with Saint Joseph

POPE BENEDICT XVI: "Lent is a privileged time of interior pilgrimage towards him who is the fount of mercy. Even in the 'valley of darkness' of which the Psalmist speaks (Ps 23:4), God is there to guard us and sustain us. Yes, even today the Lord hears the cry of the multitudes longing for joy, peace, and love. As in every age, they feel abandoned. Yet, even in the desolation of misery, loneliness, violence, and hunger that indiscriminately afflict children, adults, and the elderly, God does not allow darkness to prevail."

FR. JULIAN CARRON: "When I am in endless darkness so much so that I cannot stand myself anymore, it is there that I am forced to go to the bottom of it and recognize an Other."

CARTHUSIAN FR. LUDOLPH OF SAXONY (+1378): "Joseph was not willing to lead Mary into his home to live with him because he felt unworthy to be her companion on account of the excellence of the mystery, even though he did not know how it had taken place. Joseph had read, *Behold, a virgin shall conceive* (Is 7:14), and he believed that this was true of Mary, especially because her face shone with such divine light after her conception that its brightness made him avert his eyes; he could not regard her without experiencing a kind of awe. For this reason he wanted to humble himself before such grace and believed he was unworthy to live with the Virgin.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA: "I took for my patron the glorious Saint Joseph, and I entrusted myself earnestly to him. I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything that he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favors that God has given me through this blessed saint; the dangers from which he has delivered me, both of body and soul.

To other saints our Lord seems to have given grace to help people in some special necessity, but to this glorious saint, I know by experience, to help us in all necessities; and our Lord would have us understand that as he was himself subject to him upon earth-for Saint Joseph having the title of father and being his guardian, could command him-so now in heaven Jesus performs all the petitions Joseph puts before him.

I have never known anyone who was really devout to him, and who honored him by particular services, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue, for Joseph helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him.

It is now some years since I have always, on his feast, asked him for something, and I always have it. If the petition be in any way amiss, he directs it aright for my greater good. I ask, for the love of God, that he who does not believe me, will make the trial for himself, when he will see by experience the great good that results from commending oneself to this glorious patriarch, and being devout to him.

Those who give themselves in prayer, should in a special manner, have always a devotion to St. Joseph, for I know not how any person can think of the Queen of the Angels, during the time that she suffered so much with the Infant Jesus, without giving thanks to St. Joseph for the services he rendered them then. He who cannot find anyone to teach him to pray, let him take this glorious saint for his master, and he will not wander out of the way.

