

The Year of St. Joseph, 'Patris Corde' - With a Father's Heart

My favorite saint, that I've loved since I was a kid, is *St. Joseph*. And wouldn't you know it when moving to Lincoln we ended up in a parish that's dedicated to him and as an added bonus I ended up becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus, whose patron saint is *St. Joseph*.

As I'm sure most of you know, last year, on Dec. 8th 2020, Pope Francis decreed a special year dedicated to St. Joseph. The year runs from Dec. 8th 2020 to Dec. 8th of 2021.

This special year coincides with the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Joseph as the patron saint of the Universal Church.

During Advent and Christmas we talk a lot about Mary and her *'fiat'* her *yes* to God when she agreed to be the mother of Jesus. Well, as we know St. Joseph also played an important part in our salvation history with his *fiat to God*, when he said *Yes to God*, when he said *yes* to becoming Jesus' *foster* father, when he said *yes* to loving Jesus with a *Father's Heart*.

In his decree Pope Francis describes St. Joseph *as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a hard-working father and father in the shadows.*

As men, as husbands, as fathers we have much to learn from this great saint, who did the will of God. He showed us how to be loving husbands and fathers and how to place ourselves at the service of our families. And so I'd like to encourage all of us that *throughout this year* we take time to reflect on our patron saint, St. Joseph, so that we may grow closer to the Lord and be the men and fathers we are called to be.

At the conclusion of the decree our Holy Father added a beautiful prayer to St Joseph, which I encourage all of you to pray together at home with your families.

*"Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil."*

Amen

God Bless, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year