

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY—Year B—2020

01. As we get deeper and deeper into the mystery and the majesty of Christmas—we see more and more how God invited Mary to be His **most privileged partner in His plan of salvation** — and we see how Mary, apart from Christ Himself, is **THE key figure in ALL of salvation history**—because Her profound **YES** to God, made it possible for the Messiah to **come to us—to heal and transform our very lives, and our very selves, at the deepest and most profound level.**
02. And so, Mary’s **yes to God, on behalf of all humanity, was a defining moment in our history**—just as Eve’s *no* to God was also a defining moment.
03. We also see how despite the numerous and severe hardships Mary endured — **despite the fact that She didn’t know exactly how God’s plan would unfold** — and despite the fact that She was sometimes caught **COMPLETELY** off guard — **Mary continued to say YES to God every step of the way—faithfully and obediently following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.**
04. But there’s another member of the Holy Family I would like to talk about today—**someone who ALSO said YES to God every step of the way** — someone who **TOO** followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit faithfully and obediently — **someone who is ALSO a key figure in the history of salvation—and despite the fact that he played such a major role in the Life of Christ—is hardly mentioned at all in the Bible.** And that person is Joseph, the Husband of Mary.
05. St. Joseph has always been a **big part of my devotional life—so much so, that the Vatican declaring this the YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH is the best Christmas gift I could have received**—because it’s something that I have been hoping to see for a long time now.
06. My devotion to Joseph is partly because I didn’t have a father growing up—and so I had **adopted this great saint as a spiritual father and mentor.** And since then, St. Joseph has always been a

father to me **in the most important sense of the word—just as Mary has always been a Mother to me in the same way.**

07. For just like Mary, Joseph was chosen from all eternity—as God knew from the very beginning **WHO** He wanted to be the earthly father of His Incarnate Word—and determined that **Joseph, Son of David, would fill that most privileged role.**
08. And since God went to **such great lengths** to prepare the very best of **Mothers for His Son—it is only fitting that God would also go to the SAME lengths to prepare the very best of human fathers for Jesus.**
09. If Mary is blessed among women—then Joseph is **truly blessed among men.** For **what greater honour and privilege could there be for ANY MAN—than to be the earthly father of the Son of God,** and the husband of the Queen of Heaven.
10. And just like Mary, Joseph is a powerful intercessor in Heaven—**second ONLY to Our Lady Herself — because other than Mary, there is NO ONE who so perfectly laid down their life in loving service to God and His Messiah—and no one who has merited a higher degree of glory in Heaven.**
11. And so, just as Jesus **cannot refuse anything His Mother asks—** in the same way, Jesus cannot refuse anything His earthly father asks. For how could Our Lord refuse anything to those who **raised Him and nurtured Him — those who fed Him and provided for Him — those who guided Him and protected Him — those who taught Him to walk, to read, and to work with His Hands — those who helped shape His human Identity, and inform His character.**
12. For even though Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus—Jesus would not consider himself **any less a son of Joseph, than He did a son of Mary —** for, in a very real way, Joseph represented and mediated (here on earth) **the Eternal Father’s infinite love for His only-begotten Son.**

13. If the way to Jesus' Heart is through Mary—the way to Mary's Heart is through Joseph — because **how could the Queen of Heaven refuse anything to the one who provided for Her and their Divine Son** — the one who safeguarded Her virginity — the one who supported Her with **unwavering resolve** — the one who loved Her with the **purest of affection** — the one who cared for Her, and for Jesus, **with utmost tenderness**.
14. It's because of this, that I have felt led in prayer to ask God for the grace **to love Jesus with the Heart of Mary—and the grace to love Mary with the Heart of Joseph**. In fact, a several months ago, during my personal prayer time, I felt the Lord telling me **to look to the Heart of Joseph—the Just and Chaste Heart of St. Joseph—and to model my heart after his**. Because if we look at the Heart of Joseph, we will see some beautiful and inspiring things—things by which to model our own hearts after.
15. **FIRST**, we see in the Heart of Joseph a heart that was **TOTALLY** in love with God, and completely devoted to His Will—to the point that **he was willing to forsake all that he knew, all that was important to him**—willing to forsake **EVEN** his own vision and his own plan for his life, in order to fulfill the Will of God—and devote himself entirely to the Messiah, and to the Mother of God — **and he was willing to do ALL this on nothing more than a dream**.
16. Because all St. Joseph **HAD** was a dream — a dream that **revealed to him the Will of God**. And that was all St. Joseph needed. After that, he didn't question God's Will — **and once he knew God's Will, he didn't hesitate for a moment—he simply got up and did what God requested** — he simply said **yes** to God, no matter what the consequences for him personally — **because, AGAIN, his heart truly belonged to God—and was completely devoted to His Will**.
17. And it's not **ONLY** that Joseph was open and obedient to God's Will—but that he was **EAGER** to do God's Will — and that he (in effect) **DELIGHTED** in God's Will. In fact, before the Birth of Christ, he

was most likely **torn about what to do**—since Mary was now pregnant with a child that was not his own. **And he was probably praying to God about it—asking God to reveal His Will in this situation.**

18. But once the Lord made clear to him His Will—**again**, Joseph never hesitated—He was **completely obedient to the Will of God—embracing God’s Will wholeheartedly**—no matter the cost to him personally.
19. SECOND, we see in the Heart of Joseph, **a heart in love with the Mother of God—not just as his spouse, but as his Queen—and NOT JUST as his Queen, but as his life, his sweetness, and his hope** — a heart that was filled with the purest and most tender affection and admiration for her.
20. There’s an old saying that goes—**the best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother**—well no one, ABSOLUTELY NO ONE, in all of human history, fulfilled this more perfectly than St. Joseph—for Joseph is **not only the best all of earthly fathers—he is ALSO the best of all human husbands. And, apart from Jesus Himself, no one loved Our Blessed Mother more than Joseph—and was more devoted to Her than him.**
21. THIRD, when we look at the Heart of Joseph, we see a **heart FULL OF VIRTUE—a heart which knew well that the key to TRUE success, the key to TRUE happiness in this life—is not possessions, wealth, pleasure, or social influence—but righteous and virtuous behaviour.**
22. And because Joseph’s Heart was full of virtue, so was his life — **in fact, ALL** his life was an example of heroic virtue. For example, we see **enormous compassion and kindness in him when he decides to divorce Mary quietly**—even though the Law required that he divorce her publicly — and so, we see **a heart willing to be kind and gracious to Mary even when he wasn’t sure about her fidelity to him.**
23. Also, we see in the life of Joseph profound examples of **faith and trust in God**—especially **when he was asked to uproot his life, time**

and time again, moving from one place to the next— travelling in places and in ways that would have been extremely dangerous at the time—even to the point of becoming a refugee in a foreign country — yet, through all this, Joseph’s Heart remained steadfast and resolute in fulfilling God’s Will and trusting in God’s Providence and Guidance.

24. **FOURTH**, we see in the Heart of Joseph a heart that understood the value of silence—a heart which in fact loved and embraced silence — a heart which knew that love is not about mere words, but about self-sacrificing action — a heart which knew that Christian witness is not about persuasive arguments, but about virtuous behavior — a heart which knew that meaningful communication is not about mindless chatter—but about the genuine sharing of one’s self — for St. Joseph was not a talker **BUT A DOER**—one who let his actions speak for him — one who laid down his life for the love of God and neighbor—not with mere words, but with decisive action.
25. In fact, throughout all the Scriptures that refer to him—all we ever see is St. Joseph **DOING, but NOT TALKING**. He never speaks a word—he simply does what God desires. **He never complains about God’s demands—he never questions God’s plan—he simply does what God asks—in silent and reverent obedience.**
26. It is for this reason that St. Joseph is **THE perfect model** of silent witness in **ALL the Scriptures**. Indeed, the silence of St. Joseph is deafening — and, apart from Jesus and Mary, it speaks louder than any other figure in the New Testament — because his reverent silence, his self-sacrificing actions—are a perfect witness, a living testament, to God’s saving power and love.
27. For what he offered Jesus and Mary was **far more powerful and meaningful than mere words** — he offered them his strong and silent presence — he offered them the witness of a man determined to do the Will of God—and to give his very life in service to the Son of God,

and the Queen of Heaven — in other words, he offered them his very self.

28. And FINALLY, we see in the Heart of Joseph, **the heart of a servant—the heart of one, who like Jesus, was here to serve and not to be served**—the heart of one who was passionate about serving GOD’S INTERESTS and not his own.
29. For, as both a family man, and a man of God—Joseph was **completely detached from his own plans, his own dreams, and his own vision for his life**—completely detached from **his independence, his personal freedom, EVEN his own way of seeing and doing things.**
30. He totally denied himself and laid down His life repeatedly for Jesus and Mary—offering himself continually to them in **perfect loving service** — doing **even the smallest and most mundane tasks with the greatest of love and affection for them—day after day, year after year**—without the slightest hesitation—with heroic fortitude and virtue — **while REFUSING to live any kind of compromise between his own interests and God’s interests.**
31. And so, as we celebrate this great Solemnity of the Holy Family—and as we journey further into the Year of St. Joseph—**let us look to the just and chaste Heart of St. Joseph—and model our hearts after his** — let us ask God for the grace to love Jesus with the Heart of Mary, and to love Mary **WITH the Heart of Joseph** — and **let us pray for the grace to imitate Joseph—by embracing the gift of silence and letting our actions speak for us** — and by completely forsaking our OWN INTERESTS for GOD’S INTERESTS—laying down our lives instead, AS HE DID, in loving service to the Son of God and the Queen of Heaven.
AMEN.