

*Today is the Solemnity of St. Joseph*, foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ. His life has always been shrouded in mystery, moreso even than the Blessed Mother. We have few Scripture passages which tell us of his life, and lots of presumptions about what his life must have been like. But the Church recognizes this unique role of ‘foster father,’ and a recognition that a unique combination of gifts must have been his: a fidelity to a God who tells him to trust, to be open to the gift that is before him, to surrender the things that were known to him and venture out as an exile, taking with him his wife and newborn son—a refugee in an inhospitable world, pursued as a political prisoner.

Untold sacrifices must have been his along the way—a constant degree of uncertainty, the searching out of a safe place to dwell, perhaps the necessity of working ‘under the table’ in a foreign land in order to secure enough food for the moment, and again when things had seemed to become settled, to return to a land that once was his. There is no certainty upon his return—not even that his own family or village would accept him back, but just the realization that the self-reliance that had sustained them in Egypt would sustain them once again. Joseph disappears from the pages of history following the journey to Jerusalem for Passover as Jesus finds His place in the Temple and Mary and Joseph lose Him for the first time.

In these challenging times, perhaps St. Joseph is an especially good intercessor for us as we find ourselves exiles from the things that have been our ‘normal,’ to learn to become dependent once more upon the God who tells us to trust in Him and to recognize the temporal nature of the world in which we live. Christ remains with us until the end of the age! Pray for us, St. Joseph and tenderly care for us, your adopted children in faith!