

Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish

1 May 2020

Friday of the Third Week of Easter – *opt. mem. Saint Joseph the Worker*

“Blessed are all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labor of your hands you shall eat; blessed are you, and blessed will you be, alleluia.”

(readings are from the Easter weekday)

Reading 1: Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 117: **Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

Gospel: John 6:52-59

Homily for Friday of the Third Week of Easter

St. Joseph the Worker

Today in the Church we celebrate St. Joseph the Worker. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XII (a different Pope Pius from yesterday) in 1955. In many places in the world, labor is honored on May 1. We know from the gospel that Jesus was the son of a carpenter. That is one of the few things that we know about Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. He was a carpenter and we know that Jesus grew up learning that trade as well. All human labor can be sanctified, which sanctifies the person that is doing the work, and which can be united to Christ’s work of redemption. Part of the holiness that we attain in life comes from the work that we do with our hands.

One of the things that I have always enjoyed doing was working out in the yard and in the garden. Growing up, we often would have a garden in the backyard, and I remember following my mom and “helping.” We also had a number of other flower gardens around the yard that needed to be maintained. I loved being out there and I even had my own little garden area when I had several different kinds of plants and I would spend a good first part of summer vacation cleaning it out and getting it all ready. I still enjoy doing that today.

Work comes in many different shapes, sizes and dimensions. It includes not only the work that we do to earn money so that we can support ourselves and our families, but it also includes the work that we do in raising our families, and in nurturing our relations and friendships. The work that we do to care for the house, the work we do to assist and care for our brothers and sisters in need, the work that we do to better ourselves and our relationship with Christ. All of this work - big or small, noticed or un-noticed - is important and necessary in our world and in our lives and every person has the right to work with dignity and respect and to be paid fairly and justly.

Right now during this COVID-19 pandemic that we are currently in, there are many that are not working right now, and there are many that are working reduced hours. There are also many that are working extra hours and are even putting their health at risk, so that we still can have access to those basic things that we need in our lives.

Let us implore Saint Joseph the Working to intercede to his son for us to be with all workers in our community, state, and world. Let us ask that all those working will be safe and protected and those that are not working that they are able to return to work soon.

St. Joseph the Worker, Pray for us!