

Reflections on St. Joseph

I have often reflected as a preacher, that I and many others (especially those who sit in the pews and listen to us), should consider Joseph as a patron saint of preachers, since none of his words are recorded in scripture! Walk the talk or be quiet. Maybe both!

Everything we know about him was from his actions. We do not have any canticles or prayers like we get from Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah or Simeon. Yet here is a man who perhaps suffered ridicule, or worse, for his staunch belief that his betrothed was pregnant ... HOW? What might his friends and family have said to him about this situation?

And what might his in-laws have said about him, taking their great-with-first-child young betrothed daughter off to no-room-at-Motel-6 Bethlehem for a census, and immediately running off to Egypt and back because of the same seemingly crazy reliance on dreams, thinking the government was out to get them? As it turns out they WERE! If the DCFS (Department of Child and Family Services) had existed then, what might they have made of the Holy Family?

And, yet – that is who and what and how the three of them were amid the occupied lands around Nazareth. Immigrant, refugee, questionably sane, and essential to God’s plan for salvation. In a word, Holy.

Know any other folks like that? I bet you do.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is more important, to do the right thing or to say the right thing?
- 2) What were all the temptations Joseph had to suffer through when he learned Mary was pregnant?
- 3) What are all the “trials and tribulations” he suffered once he said yes to “the child and his mother?”



Fr. James Brobst, OMI is Vicar Provincial for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He oversees Mission and Ministry. A native of Alton, IL., Jim is an avid church musician and holds degrees in Music Performance, a M.Div. from CTU and a MA in Theology from Notre Dame. His ministry included inner-city parishes in Chicago, his hometown of Alton, and the Archdiocese of Anchorage. He has served in formation, retreat ministry and administration for his Province.



This paper is a service of the United States Catholic Mission Association (USCMA).
The faithful are baptized and sent on mission. USCMA accompanies all missionary-disciples – lay, religious, and ordained. Journey with us; feed the missionary impulse within you.
www.uscatholicmission.org 7300 Hanover Drive – Suite 304, Greenbelt, MD 20770. 202-832-3112

Offered with love, faith, and hope.