

Week 11



Chastity is a virtue. A very important virtue. To be chaste is have self-mastery, to be in control of your passions and sexuality. Celibacy is a special form of chastity. God calls some men and women to celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Saint Joseph was both chaste and celibate. Saint Joseph was the Chaste Guardian of the Virgin. Saint Joseph and Mary lived a “Josephite marriage.” They were truly husband and wife, but they lived a virginal marriage. The consistent teaching and tradition of the church is that Mary and Joseph lived a virginal marriage. Their vocation was to be united in heart, mind, and soul. To be chaste is to be pure of heart. If a person’s heart is not pure, they are incapable of seeing God. Modern man has become blinded by impurity. Saint Jerome and Bede defend the fundamental truth of Christianity – Mary perpetual virginity – but are also affirming the tradition that Saint Joseph remained a virgin all his life. Both Mary and Joseph had made a vow to remain virgin all the days of their lives. Mary and Saint Joseph guarded each other’s for the sake of the mission of their virginal son.

Excerpts from: “Consecration to Saint Joseph”, Father Donald Calloway, MIC

Week 12



Saint Joseph's legal responsibility of naming the Christ Child was given by God when the angel revealed to Saint Joseph that he was not to be afraid to take Mary – and the child in her womb – into his home and under his care. Saint Joseph's role in naming the Savior is an extremely important one. It is meant to signify to the world that Saint Joseph is the legal father of Jesus. In Latin the title given to Saint Joseph to signify his role as foster father is *Filii Dei Nutricie*. Literally, it means "nurturer of the son of God." Saint Joseph's fatherhood was an authoritative, affectionate, faithful, and everlasting fatherhood. The loving relationship between a spiritual father and a child endures forever. In other words, Jesus continues to be the Son of Joseph in heaven. What is valid for Jesus is valid for you. Saint Joseph is forever your spiritual father. As he took care of Jesus while on earth, Saint Joseph will take care of you on your earthly pilgrimage. Saint Joseph is your loving provider, educator, and protector.

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Week 13



From the moment the angel revealed to Saint Joseph that he was to be the father of the Messiah to when he took his final breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, Saint Joseph zealously defended Jesus. Saint Joseph zealously defends you. The paternal mission of Saint Joseph is not finished. Saint Joseph no longer needs to watch over and protect Jesus. You, however, are not yet in heaven. You need the protection of Saint Joseph. Your spiritual father knows what is harmful to your soul, and he wants to watch over you and help you arrive safely home. Saint Joseph will never abandon you. Your role is to entrust yourself to his diligent care and never look back. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade – [Saint Joseph] “has in his kindness deigned to accept us as his children and to permit us to call him father.” Saint Joseph will increase your zeal for Christ. Saint Joseph will help you be a zealous witness to the truth of Jesus Christ. Your defense of Christ must be great. To defend the Church is to defend Christ. You must

resemble your spiritual father always willing to sacrifice yourself for the love of truth. Like Saint Joseph, you too, can bring many souls to Jesus.

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Week 14



Joseph was just, and the Virgin was immaculate: but when he wished to put her away, this happened from the fact that he recognized in her the power of a miracle and a vast mystery which he held himself unworthy to approach. Humbling himself therefore before so great and ineffable a phenomenon, he sought to retire, just as St. Peter humbled himself before the Lord and said, “Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man,” and as the ruler confessed who sent word to the Lord, “I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof, for I have considered myself not even worthy to come to thee,” or as St. Elizabeth said to the Most Blessed Virgin, “And how have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” In like manner did the just man Joseph humble himself and fear to enter into a union with such exalted holiness. – Francis Filas

But as he designed this plan, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said to him: “Joseph Son of David, do not fear to take Mary your spouse into your home; for certainly that which has been begotten in her comes from the Holy Spirit, but she will bear a son and you will give him the name Jesus. For it is he who will save his people from their sins.”

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Week 15



“Old men don’t walk to Egypt.” Mother Angelica answered with her classic wit, when she was asked if Joseph was young or old. The terrain in the Holy Land is rough, the heat intense, and the dangers many. Walking to Egypt, being there for many years without knowing anyone, and having to make a living are not things associated with elderly men. When you consider the titles that the Church gives Saint Joseph, Model of the Workmen and Terror of Demons etc. they lean in the direction that Saint Joseph was young and strong. Joseph was probably a young man, strong, virile, athletic, handsome, chaste, and

disciplined. Mary and Joseph brought to their espousals not only their vows of virginity but also two hearts with greater torrents of love than had ever before coursed through human breasts. In both Mary and Joseph, there were youth, beauty, and promise. Fulton Sheen clearly states “Theology and art depicted Saint Joseph as an old man in order to protect the virginity of Mary.” After many years of living in Egypt, Saint Joseph learned from the angel that Herod was dead. Saint Joseph was now required to pack up his family and walk from Egypt all the way back to Nazareth. That’s more than 120 miles! If God did not disdain to give his mother to a young man, John, at the foot of the Cross, then why should he have given her an old man at the crib?

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