

PROVINCIAL ROGATE VOCATION CENTER



Ite ad Ioseph

A YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

with
ST. HANNIBAL MARY DI FRANCIA



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Imprimi Potest:

FR. ORVILLE R. CAJIGAL, RCJ

Provincial Superior

Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus

St. Matthew Province

Published and Distributed by:

Provincial Rogate Vocation Center

Eriberta Lane, Don Jose Green Court, Brgy. San Dionisio

1700 Parañaque City

Original title:

Pregchiere a San Giuseppe. Padre Annibale Oggi n. 10

Postulazione Generale, Roma, 2014

Authorized for printing:

Fr. Bruno Rampazzo RCJ

Superior General of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus

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Commission on Translations

Rome, December 31, 2020

Special Year of Saint Joseph (2020 - December 8 – 2021)

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In every situation,
Joseph declared his own "fiat",
like those of Mary at the Annunciation
and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.
In his role as the head of a family,
Joseph taught Jesus
to be obedient to his parents,
in accordance with God's command.

- POPE FRANCIS

Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" on the
150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph
as Patron of the Universal Church

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Dear Devotees,

After those of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was made Mother of God, there can be no greater dignity than the one to which God has raised the glorious patriarch Saint Joseph.

The first grace, from which his immeasurable goodness derives, is that of being chosen to the virgin Bridegroom of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. For this, he could say: "Venerunt mihi omnia bona pariter cum illa" [All good things came to me together with her (Wisdom 7:11)]. From being Mary's Bridegroom, all goodness came to him. Joseph was born with very special gifts. According to his name which means "Continual

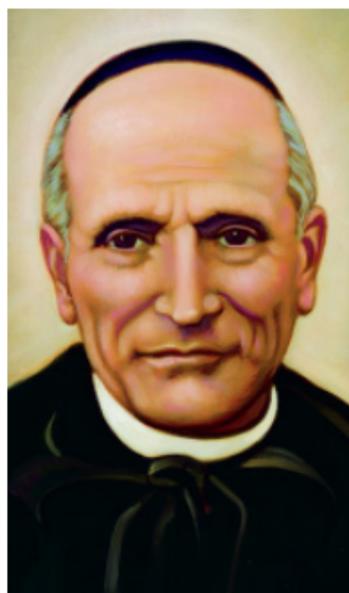
Growth": "Filius accrescens Joseph - Joseph is growing son» [Gen. 49:22], he grew day by day, hour by hour, in every virtue, because he had to be worthy to marry the Immaculate Lady Mary who is the Queen of all Saints.

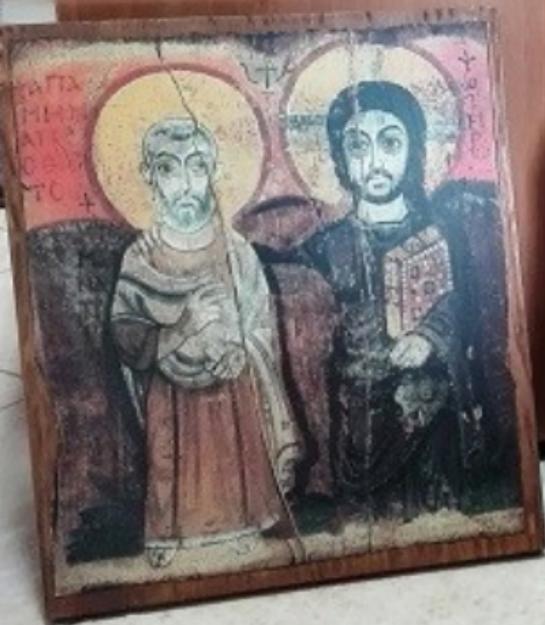
He is the Patron of the universal Church. "Patron" means protector. He who protects loves. If he protects and does not love, that means that his protection is momentary. The protection of Saint Joseph is all full, or better, overflowing with love for all the members of the Holy Church, in fact for all mankind, because even the infidels are the object of the maternal care of the Holy Church and all the righteous belong to the soul of the Church, wherever they may be, for to them God will give faith and love, even at the point of death, and will save them.

All, according to the greater or lesser disposition and devotion, feel more or less the great protection of Saint Joseph. It is felt by the workers who find in Him the model of the just and honest worker; it is felt by the families who, being the head of the Holy Family, find in him the true protector; it is felt by the poor because Saint Joseph was poor too, and now he is the father of providence; it is felt by the

rich because Saint Joseph was the descendant of King David; the virgins feel his protection because he was the guardian of the virginity of Mary; it is felt by the children whom he especially loves, having embraced and loved them all while he embraced the Child Jesus.

Father Hannibal
Mary Di Francia





PRAYER TO THE GLORIOUS PATRIARCH SAINT JOSEPH FOR THE LAMP OF VOCATIONS

O our most loving Patron and Protector, Saint Joseph, trusting in your power and mercy, we pray for the harvest of the Lord; provide it with holy workers.

Here is the Lamp of Vocations that burns before you, that asks you incessantly to send holy workers to the Church, and with that, we also implore you for vocations for our community.

O heavenly steward of the Holy Church,
provide us according to your mercy
and our needs. What we ask of you,
the gift of vocations, is the sum of all graces.
Graciously hear our ardent supplications.
If those words of Holy Scripture,
“Ite ad Ioseph”, refer to you,
why would we not hurry at your feet
in hunger and thirst for justice that
troubles us, in the famine that so afflicts us,
of the workers of the harvest?
Strengthen the hope which we have placed
in you, and grant our supplication.

What grace would Jesus and Mary
deny you in heaven? Are not all the treasures
of divine mercy entrusted to you?
For that adorable Child that you carried in
your arms, hear us;
for your Immaculate Bride, hear us;
for these divine Hearts that thirst
and hunger for souls, hear us;
for the zeal and charity
of the adorable Heart of Jesus
that drew out from him those divine words:
So ask the Master of the Harvest, to send out
laborers for his harvest, hear us.
We expect from you this singular grace;
let our hope not be in vain. Amen.



ENTRUSTMENT OF THE FAMILY

O glorious Saint Joseph,
confident in your immense goodness,
to you we entrust our family
and all our possessions.

O giver of all graces,
obtain for us the forgiveness of our sins,
love for Jesus and Mary, peace of heart,
perfect conformity to the divine will, the
necessary work and daily bread.

Free us from dangers,
enlighten us in doubts,
comfort us in afflictions,
and at the end of our days,
obtain for us to die a holy death
to live in the eternal glory of Paradise.

Amen.

FOR A BENEFACTOR

O glorious Patriarch, Saint Joseph, we beseech you that, out of love for Jesus and Mary, you may deign to receive the prayers that we humbly present to you for our benefactor (*the name is said*).

You, who are the treasurer of the divine graces, grant this benefactor the most special graces and mercies. Preserve him/her from every danger and every evil of soul and body; increase his/her days, fill him/her with health, peace, providence and obtain him/her from the sweet Hearts of Jesus and Mary a hundredfold in this life and the eternal glory of Paradise.

Amen.



FOR THE POOR

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
we humbly turn to you, the father of the poor,
the comforter of the afflicted,
and the help of the weak.

We kneel at your feet,
O mighty and merciful Saint,
to beseech you to cast a kind
and gracious gaze upon all
who live in poverty, affliction,
and spiritual and material turmoil.

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
you will help those who live in ignorance,
squalor, abandonment, and sin.

Look especially at the places
where the infernal enemy
afflicts bodies and souls.



To you we raise our hands in supplication,
exclaiming: Come, visit and protect
all the poor. Come and take
under your protection those who are
forgotten by all.

Come and call at the feet of Jesus
the most obstinate sinners.
Come and bring back to the arms of the
Good Shepherd the lost sheep.”

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
hurry because the miseries are extreme
and the dangers are innumerable.
Have compassion for so many sick
and forgotten elders. Have mercy
especially on children who are poor,
abandoned, abused, exploited, and killed.

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
take under your protection all the poor,
remove from them the infernal enemy,
and let the kingdom of God
arise beautiful and glorious
from the ruins of the kingdom of sin.

Amen.



IN THE TIME OF NEED

O, dear Saint Joseph,
you know our spiritual and temporal needs
and those of our loved ones.

O dear Saint, we recognize that we give
so many sorrows to the Most Holy Heart
of Jesus. I pray you, come to our help.

Obtain for us true repentance of our faults
and forgiveness for all our shortcomings.
Look at us with eyes of mercy and help us in
our spiritual and temporal needs.

Hasten, dear Saint, for we are perishing.

We place all our hopes in you.

Take the helm of our poor little boat
so that it may arrive in the port.

If everyone abandons us,
you do not abandon us.
You help, comfort, and enlighten us.
You give us courage, strength, counsel,
health, work, and providence.

Hurry, O glorious Saint, come to our aid,
delay no more. See, Satan presses us;
let him go away by the power
of the most Holy Name of Jesus
and give us victory over him.
Dear Saint Joseph, for the love of Jesus,
for the love of Mary, swiftly hear us.

Amen.



FOR VOCATIONS

O glorious Patron of the Holy Church,
we pray to you with insistent trust:
“Accept the prayers that the Church
raises to you to obtain good
and holy seminarians, good and holy workers
for the mystical harvest.”

O dear Saint, for the love of Jesus
and Mary, deign to grant this ardent desire
which conforms to the desires
of the Most Holy Heart of Jesus.
Console the Holy Church by granting
numerous seminarians to all dioceses
and religious congregations.
Remove from the seminary
those who have no true vocation.
Assist seminarians and clerics
so that they may grow in piety, study,
humility, obedience, purity, fervor,
detachment from earthly things,
and fullness of love for Jesus and the zeal
for his glory.

Amen.





FOR THE HOLY FATHER

O most merciful Saint Joseph,
by your power and mercy,
we pray to you according to the intention
of our Holy Father, the Pope.
Through the love with which you loved Jesus
and Mary, may your protection
be extended to him.

May you come to his aid,
fulfill his desires which conform with those
of the Most Holy Heart of Jesus.

O victor over hell,
defend the Supreme Pontiff
from all his enemies.

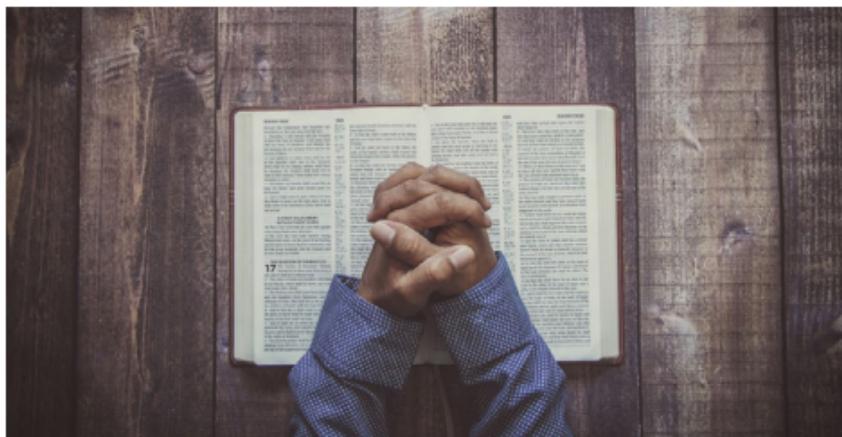
Amen.

FOR A SPECIAL GRACE

O exalted and glorious patriarch,
Saint Joseph, my most loving protector,
I come at your feet and as the eyes
of the servant look at the hands
of the mistress, so I look at your
merciful hands waiting for the grace
(*mention it here*) that I insistently ask of you.

Look, O glorious Patriarch,
at the supplications and prayers
I have presented to you so far
and grant them to me, not for my merits,
but for the merits of Jesus,
your adorable foster son,
and your immaculate bride Mary.





Indeed, I beseech you, O glorious Patriarch,
not only to grant me this grace
but to grant it quickly in the way
most pleasing to you and in conformity
to the consolation of the hearts
of Jesus and Mary.

O holy Patriarch, I place my hope
in you alone. You cannot reject
my supplication because I present it to you
in the name of Jesus and Mary.

Glorious Patriarch,
defeat the infernal enemy with your powerful
arm and make the Divine Mercy
triumph through your powerful intercession.

Amen.

FOR THE HAPPY CONCLUSION OF A TRANSACTION

Glorious patriarch Saint Joseph,
kneeling at your feet,
I implore your powerful support
for the successful conclusion
of that transaction which you know.
Treat this matter (*mention it here*)
as you like it best;
I entrust it with confidence to you
so that you may decide
everything on it for the glory of God
and the edification of my soul.

I pray you, O holy Patriarch,
for the love of the Child Jesus
and the beautiful Immaculate Mother,
obtain for me the necessary light
so that in everything I may act
according to justice, charity, prudence,
and fairness. Help me with your powerful
protection so that the power
of the infernal enemy may not prevail.
Come quickly to my aid.

Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary.

FOR THE FINAL PERSEVERANCE

Glorious Saint Joseph,
with insistence, I ask you for the grace
of holy perseverance.

Please do not deny it to me!
This grace will crown all the others,
which without final perseverance,
would be useless.

This grace will lead me to Paradise
to praise and glorify with you
the Most Holy Trinity and Mary.

O mighty Saint Joseph, call sinners to God,
lead those who have separated themselves
from the faith back to the true Church
of which you are the universal protector.

Convert everyone, let the souls of purgatory
also experience the beneficial effect
of your help, and bring them today
to the ranks of paradise where you sit
crowned with glory.

O glorious Saint, do not reject
my humble supplications
but deign to hear them
and accept with them the hymn
that fervently rises to you from my heart.

Amen.

FOR THE SUCCESS OF AN ENDEAVOR

Glorious patriarch Saint Joseph,
I confidently recommend to you
the success of my work.

Direct my steps and my work.

Give me the light I need
to avoid what is harmful

and choose what is most beneficial to me.

Preserve me from the unjust actions
of my adversaries, and since you are
the father of providence,
bless my work so that it may bring me
temporal goods ordered
toward true spiritual and eternal goods.

Amen.

OFFERINGS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
my protector, throughout this month
I intend to present to you my poor gifts,
begging you to accept them.

I intend to praise and bless God,
the Most High, for the very special privileges
granted to you, for the singular gifts of grace
and holiness with which He enriched you.

I bless the eternal Father
for having made you his representative
before his divine Son, giving you divine
fatherhood over him.

I bless the eternal Son
because he deigned to have you as a father
and obey you with love.

I bless the eternal Holy Spirit
because he gave you his immaculate bride
Mary as your true bride.

You are the most privileged of all the children
of Adam, the most holy, the most upright, the
most exalted to sublime dignity,
so I take pleasure in you and kneeling at
your feet, I ask for your mercy!

I and my family trust in your powerful
intercession because we know that God
grants you what you ask.

We trust in your mercy we know that you
want us all to be saved.

We beseech you that in this month
you may obtain for us the love for Jesus
and Mary, the great desire
for our sanctification, and the true growth
in the holy virtues. Help us to be humble,
obedient, pure, hardworking, respectful,

and pious. We beseech you, O mighty Patriarch, for all the spiritual and temporal needs of our relatives, friends, benefactors, and especially for our parish.

O Guardian of the Holy Family, provide us with all that is good for our sanctification, for the success of our children and grandchildren, and the relief of the poor of Jesus Christ. To you, we offer ourselves, our family, and what we possess. Present us to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as a perfect holocaust and victim of the Divine will.

Deign, O holy Patriarch, to take us all under your special protection. Free us from the infernal enemy, who as a hungry lion roars around us to devour us. Bless our good desires and all our works. Send holy priests to the holy Church and let us serve and love God with a true heart throughout our lives. Finally, assist us at the hour of our death and lead us to the everlasting joy of Paradise.

Amen.



SALUTATIONS TO SAINT JOSEPH

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
I greet you as the true bridegroom of Mary
Immaculate and I praise you
because the Ark of the true covenant
was entrusted to you.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, I greet you
as the true husband of Mary Immaculate and I
praise you because the precious Pearl of great
price was given to you.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

O glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph,
I greet you as the true bridegroom of Mary
Immaculate and I praise you because the
sealed and purest Fountain [Songs 4:12]
of all graces was handed over to you.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.



LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

For the incarnation of the Word of God
in the immaculate womb of Mary:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the holy birth of the child Jesus
in the grotto of Bethlehem:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the painful circumcision
of the child Jesus:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the presentation in the temple
and the prophecy of Simeon:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the flight and exile in the land of Egypt:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the return from Egypt:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the loss of Jesus in the temple:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the sorrow with which you
and Mary sought Jesus:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the ineffable joy with which you and
Mary found him in the temple:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the hidden life with Jesus in Nazareth:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For your precious death
in the arms of Jesus and Mary:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the sorrows of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For all that Jesus suffered in body
and soul:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

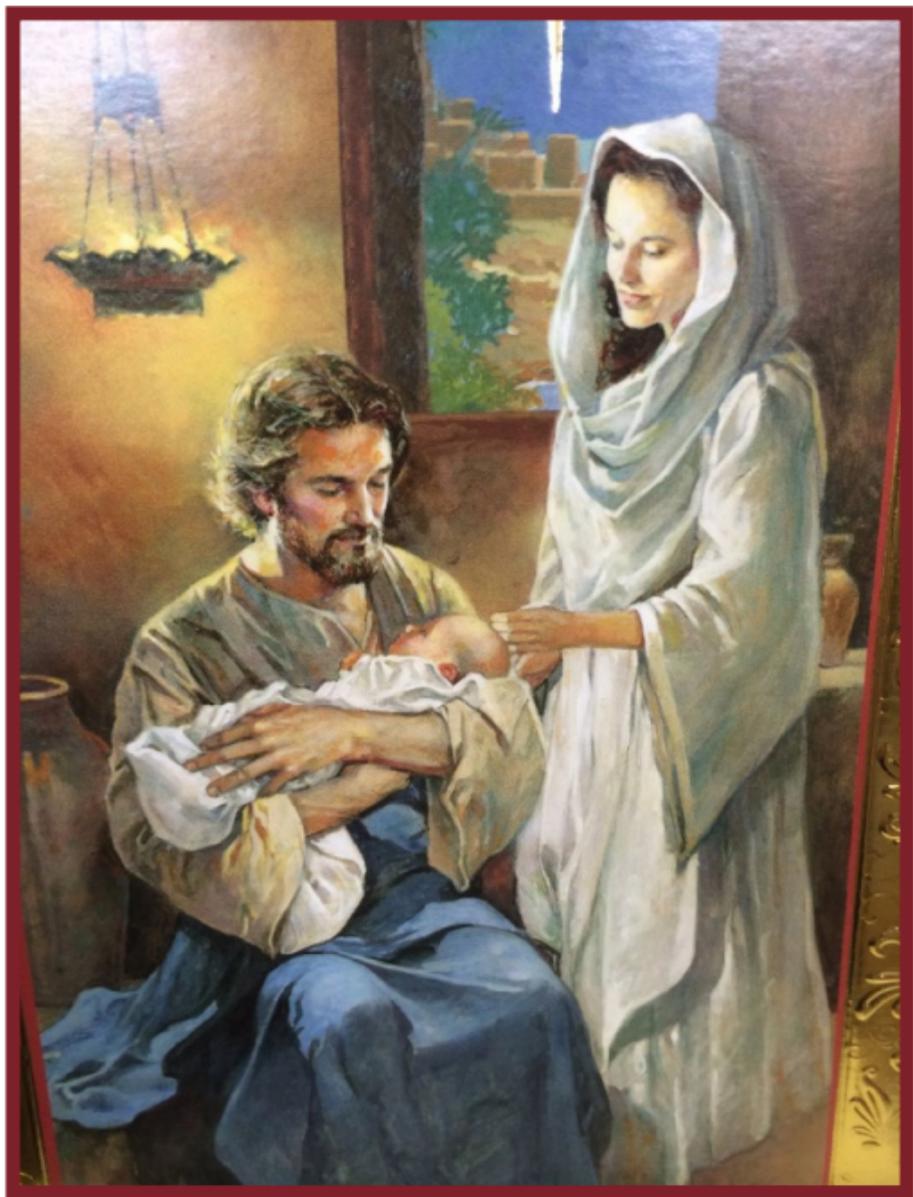
For the mysteries of the mortal life
of Jesus and Mary:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the treasures of grace and holiness
which Jesus and Mary bestowed on you:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For your glorification in heaven:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.

For the eternal glory of Jesus and Mary:
Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, hear us.





Triduum to Saint Joseph

1. In the anguish of this valley of tears, to whom shall we turn, if not to you, O glorious Saint Joseph? Your most chaste bride Mary entrusted all her treasures to you, that you might pour them out for our benefit? Mary seems to tell us: "Go to my husband Joseph and he will console you, and raising you up from the evils that oppress you, will make you happy." For the great love you have for your loving Bride, have mercy on us, O Joseph, now and at the hour of our death.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

2. We recognize that we have provoked Divine Justice with our sins and that we deserve the most severe punishment. And what will be our refuge? In which port can we take refuge? "Go to Joseph» Jesus seems to tell us. "Go to Joseph whom I revered as a father. I gave him, as your father, all authority to help you." For the great love you had for Jesus, therefore, have mercy on us, O Joseph, have mercy on us in this life and even more at the hour of our death.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

3. We confess that the sins committed bring upon us the most terrible punishments. In which ark can we find refuge? What will comfort us in such great danger? “Go to Joseph», the eternal Father seems to tell us. “Go to Joseph, to him I entrusted my Son, the everlasting source of grace; therefore, all graces are in his hands.” Have mercy, therefore, O Joseph, have mercy on us on this earthly pilgrimage; for the great love which you showed to God, who was gracious to you, let us be saved.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

PRAYER

O our most gracious protector, Saint Joseph, we are consoled because you have been chosen by the Most High to be the virgin bridegroom of the purest of all women. Great is your power before God and your mercy on us. That is why we trust in you, imploring your powerful assistance. Jesus and Mary send us at your feet, saying: “Go to Joseph»; the holy Church of which you are the Patron sends us at your feet; the graces that you have always granted us, the needs in which we find ourselves, and the new graces that we long for,

bring us at your feet. O glorious Patriarch, do not reject our humble prayers; receive them graciously and hear them; do so for the sake of that immaculate Bride whom you kept as the true Ark of the new covenant; do it for that adorable little new-born baby Jesus whom you carry in your arms and tightly embrace in your chest. For the love of Jesus and Mary, for all the mysteries of the Incarnate Word and the Immaculate Mother, come to our help and grant us the graces we are waiting for, for the infinite consolation of the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

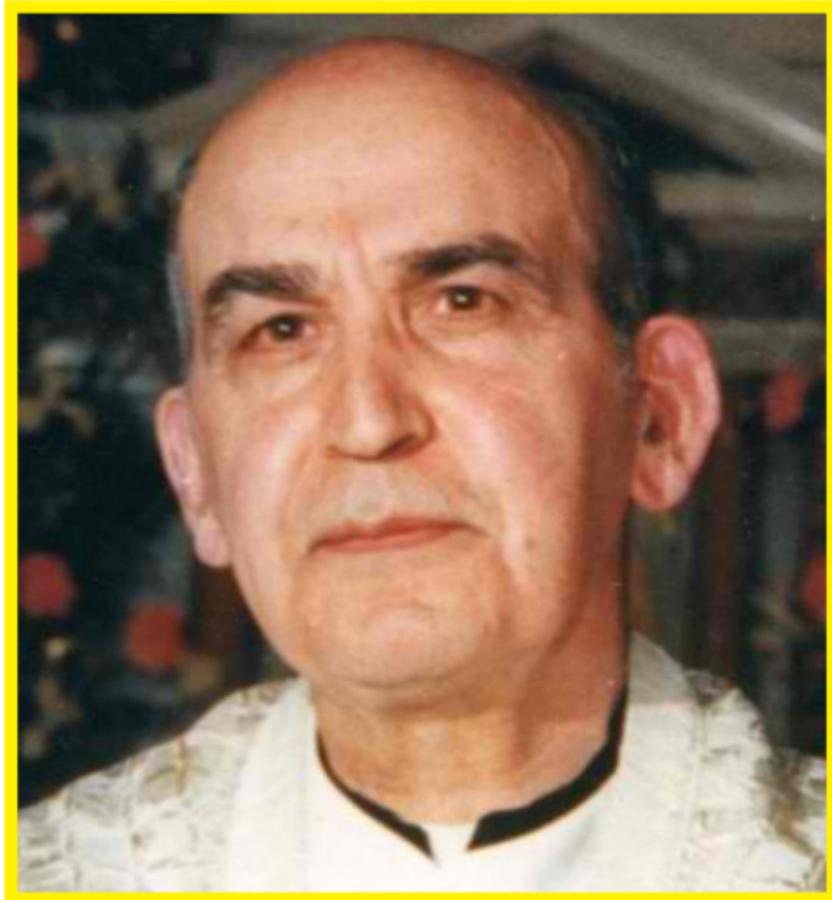
V/. Pray for us, Saint Joseph.

A/. That we are made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Help us, O Lord, through the merits of Saint Joseph, the bridegroom of your most holy Mother. Grant us, through his intercession, what we cannot obtain by our merits. You who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

Amen.



SERVANT OF GOD

FR. GIUSEPPE MARRAZZO RCJ

(May 5, 1917 - November 30, 1992)

PRAYER TO IMPLORE GRACES

Almighty and merciful God, I turn to you with filial trust: glorify your servant Father Joseph Marrazzo and through his intercession grant me the grace ... (*mention it here*) I greatly need and look with love on those who turn to You with sincere faith. Amen.

BIOGRAPHY

Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo, RCJ was born in San Vito dei Normanni (Brindisi, Italy) on May 5, 1917. At the age of 13, he entered the Rogationist seminary in Trani (Ba) and was ordained a priest on May 9, 1943. He spent almost all his life exercising the ministry of reconciliation in the Shrine of Saint Anthony in Messina, Italy.

His ideal is summed up in loving and becoming a saint, following the spirit of the Founder, Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, and dedicating himself to hearing confessions so that Messina may become a second Padua and the sanctuary of Saint Anthony, in which he administered the mercy of God for more than 40 years, may become a fragrant garden of virtues and saints, sanctifying the souls that the Lord entrusted him.

Most devoted to Our Lady, whom he invoked as Mother of Good Counsel, he paid special attention to the sick. He died suddenly in Messina on November 30, 1992. As confirmation of the holiness which he enjoyed when he was alive, the announcement of his

death immediately spread the news that «*a saint has died!*». His memory is alive in the midst of the people and the fame of holiness is growing. The Diocesan Process for beatification is underway.

From the writings of Father Marrazzo:

JOSEPH, A MAN OF FAITH

The figure of Saint Joseph is of primary importance for his great faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We admire the faith of Abraham who believes in God who promises him a descendant as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands of the sea. Abraham also believes when God says to him: “Take your son and sacrifice him.”

Saint Joseph is a man of faith. Mary manifested her faith by saying, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord.” Joseph manifests his faith without speaking but obeying God. With his actions, he says “Ecce servus tuus” [Behold your servant]. At the foundation of faith is love. God did not make us to understand but to love. Whoever loves understands.

Mary, the faithful virgin, needed a husband worthy of her, for this God chose Joseph who in addition to believing in the angel also believed in Mary and her divine motherhood. Joseph and Mary believe in the divinity of Jesus.

Saint Joseph and the interior virtue: I am called to holiness, to union with God, to complete detachment from the world; I lack the inner virtue that I will ask Saint Joseph daily.

PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

Saint Joseph is the patron of a happy death because he died beside Jesus and Mary. We say: “Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, I give you my heart and soul. Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, assist me in the last agony. May Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.”

We love Jesus and Mary as did Saint Joseph. May the love for Jesus and Mary, which filled the heart of Saint Joseph, may also fill our hearts. Let us take courage and be always with Jesus, the only purpose of our lives.

Whoever receives graces through the
intercession of the Servant of God
Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo is asked to
communicate it to:

The Postulator General
of the Rogationists at Via Tuscolana
167 - 00182 ROMA
Tel. 06 7020751 -
Email: postulazione@rcj.org



DEVOTION AND TEACHINGS
OF ST. HANNIBAL MARY DI FRANCIA

on

ST. JOSEPH

During the first World War, the Father added three "Glory Be" to the prayers before and after the meals, respectfully to St. Joseph, St. Michael, and St. Anthony of Padua. I once invoked first St. Michael, Second St. Joseph. He told me, "*The question whether St. Joseph is greater or not than St. Michael is useless. I place St. Joseph soon after the most Holy Virgin. Since Jesus, Mary and Joseph were always united on earth, they must be together in heaven. The glorious St. Michael should take no offense.*"

"St. Joseph followed Jesus and Mary immediately, because he is the Father of the providence, the Patron of the Church, the model of interior life, the patron of the institute. As he nourished and defended the child Jesus, so he had to protect the least institution of the Evangelical Rogation along with the orphanages."

The Di Francia family was very devout to St. Joseph and had a pretty wooden bust of the saint, before which the whole family renewed its consecration to the saint, every year. We have many formulas written and signed by the family members, beginning with 1876. When the Father's mother died, the bust was transferred to Avignone.

To improve his interior life, the Father entrusted himself to St. Joseph.

“O glorious St. Joseph, I appeal to you, the distributor of divine treasures. I wish to become a saint belong totally to Jesus, to serve him in this institute as he wants” (Vol. 4, page 18). He addresses him, imploring that devil and nature cheat him no way while treating his affairs. “O glorious Patriarch, concern yourself with it so that the affair may be according to the divine will, for the greater consolation of the most holy Heart of Jesus ... O powerful saint, see to it that my trust in you and my appeal to your powerful protection have good results! I am expecting from you the divine graces which do not gratify my selfishness and passions, but please the most holy Heart of Jesus and the wishes of his soul” (Vol. 6, page 12).

Since the beginning, the Father puts his institution under the protection of St. Joseph, invoking him with an ardent prayer.

O sublime, powerful, compassionate saint, all of us are kneeling at your feet... Deign to look mercifully and benignly at these places of extreme misery, affliction, and disorder. This is the kingdom of ignorance, nausea, dreariness, abandon, and sin, where the hellish enemy torments the bodies and ruins the souls. We implore you with raised hands. Come, see, and protect these places, putting this quarter along with its dwellers under your powerful protection. Shelter the dwellers and their slums under your mantle; enlighten so many darkened minds with your grace and wisdom... have mercy on the unsafe little virgins, the feeble, abandoned poor, and the dispersed children who are growing in stench and abandon. Deign to protect the works of charity started in this place, helping them

grow as buds of the most holy Heart of Jesus. Make new works of charity rise in order to shelter the abandoned children and to keep the souls away from ignorance and sin (Vol. 8, page 12).

He called the little house of the first four sisters, Little Retreat of Saint Joseph, and entrusted the seed of the nascent congregation of the saint.

"I entrust these four souls to your fatherly charity; deign to sanctify and make them apt to fulfill the divine plan... O glorious saint, I beseech you to make their will sincere, their purpose firm, their intention wise, their wish fervent, their behavior holy, and their devotion perseverant." Then, he concludes, "If some of these persons are not called to the religious state, you see to it that only those whom God deigned to call to the religious profession dwell in this Little Retreat, consecrated to you" (Vol. 4, page 23).

The sisters took the garb and the vows on March 19. When the male community began taking the garb and the vows, they also were under the protection of the saint. But to have the Father available (he was busy with the sisters on March 19), their liturgy was set on the saint's patronage feast, which was celebrated on the third Wednesday or Sunday after Easter.

The feast of the saint was preceded by a devotion on seven Wednesday and a solemn novena. Before renewing their vows, the Rogationist said the novena of the saint's patronage, prayers to the most holy Heart of Jesus, to the most holy Virgin Immaculate, and to the saint. Then the community

listened to the preaching, or meditated on the religious state. Usually, the Father commented enthusiastically some passage from Paradise on earth, by Father Natale, S.J., making practical applications. Today the book is out fashion, but it confirmed many vocations in the old days.

To implore the saint's help for the institute and its member, the Father wrote seven strophes, which the orphans sang, once a day, while working. We quote one of them:

*Buy this place
And grant us the virtue.
Drive away the devil,
Keeping us sound and safe.
O saint, please implant
This little plant.*

As to the interior life of the community, the Father counted on the saint, to whom he wrote a prayer (Vol. 4, page 8). The community said it every day in March. He also appealed to the saint for holy vocations, lighted the vocation lamp before his statue, and often mentioned it in the hymns to Saint Joseph, beginning with July first 1905. (4)

*O saint, see the little flame
Before you by night and by day,
Burning and praying in its frame
The elect and the saint to display (1905).*

*If the lamp burning around
Begs the elect for our ground,*

*Co-founder, hear our case,
And grant us your grace! (1906)*

*The burning light
Shining day and night,
Isn't the aerial bell
Calling others to its dwell?*

.....

*From cities, unknown villages
Call the children God privileges,
Innocent, pure, and sincere
As should be those of our sphere... (1914)*

In the institute's early days, before St. Anthony's bread devotion was born, the ecclesial purveyor was St. Joseph, to whom the father appealed in his needs. We recall an episode of those times. The baker had sued the father for arrears. When the judge asked the father who was his lawyer, he pulled a picture of St. Joseph out of his pocket, and said, "This is my lawyer. What can I do? I have, and I will pay when St. Joseph gives me the means. I beg my creditor to take things to with a good deal of patience..." At these words, the creditor, whose name was Present, came out saying, "Once again you say "I have, and I will pay; be patient." And once again I will be patient...." The hearing was closed.

In 1911, an apostolic visitor came to our institute. Inaugurating a statue of St. Joseph at Taormina, the Father proclaimed the saint "Visitor":

*We exult with great joy,
Sisters and Daughters of the Sacred Heart;
We hear the echo of a pious decoy:
Joseph the Visitor has come to our hearth...*

The petitions he addressed to St. Joseph in any circumstance were continuous. Let us read a report, "The saint's bust in the chapel seemed to be a post-man, full as it was with envelopes and keys. Every time the father bought the Avignone slums, he entrusted the saint with the house keys, as a sign if the saint's ownership." Unfortunately, in 1919, the church caught fire and the statue was lost along with the petitions. They were a good piece of the institute's story!

The father sums up St. Joseph's work in the institute:

The holy Patriarch held it since its beginning as though it was entrusted to him by the most holy Heart of Jesus and by his divine spouse Mary. The little plant was entrusted to St. Joseph, who protected it lovingly amidst the clouds and the storms. When the soil around was dry, he laid on it the morning dew. When the sun was about to wither it, he covered the plant with his mantle. When a passenger was trampling on, or rooting it out, he defended it.

When animals threatened with devouring it, he drove them away into abyss. When the torrents rushed headlong down the plant, he built up embankments. He made it grow according to Jesus' and Mary's wish by strengthening its roots, stretching out its branches, and bringing its fruits to maturity. Finally,

he said to the angel of Padua, "Anthony, I appoint you as distributor of my providence to this pious institution for the interests of Jesus' Heart!" (S.C. Vol. 3, page 270).

Somewhere else the Father touches again upon the same subject. "We are intimately convinced that St. Joseph won for us St. Anthony's protection. Rather, we think that St. Joseph himself, as the universal patron of the Church, gave the devotion of St. Anthony's bread to the peoples of these last times to console any class of persons" (Ibid. page 249).

The Daughters of the Sacred Side testify beautifully, "He was so fond of St. Joseph! He wrote to us to our communities under the protection of the saint. He celebrated, and made people celebrate his feast with a novena and dinner for the poor, where it was feeble."

"He instilled this devotion to us, who were needing the Father's help and were in the condition to better appreciate his precious trust in the holy Patriarch."

Mother Quaranta bears the following witness, "I still have to say of his great devotion and trust to St. Joseph. He exhorted us to have a tender, simple, ingenuous devotion to the holy Patriarch.

"According to his way of thinking, when in need, we should pray to the saint heartily and insistently, even by threatening him taking away the child Jesus, or covering him with paper, until he helps us. The Servant of God wanted us to eat bread of wheat (it was around 1913); wheat came in.

He also wanted us to eat fruit every day, even though we had no money to buy it, fruit never failed. Sometimes, oil for St. Joseph helped us."

Mother Quaranta related the above evidences many times to me in detail, and I quote them.

The Father saw the sisters eating the uneatable bread, and said, "Daughters, bread is to be of pure wheat, otherwise you are unable to work."

"Who gives us such bread?"

"Ask St. Joseph for it; rather, you place an empty open sack under St. Joseph's picture, and he will provide you."

We did so. Because the building was poor, and one room served as a parlor, laboratory, and refectory, whoever came in saw the empty open sack under St. Joseph's picture.

In those days, the doctor happened to pass by, and smiled at the singular expedient. "The fact is that rich man left a big gold coin, such as," said Mother Quaranta, "we never saw. As the rich man went out, a lady came in to offer some wheat!"

Thus, St. Joseph answered the Father's trust, and the doctor felt himself drawn to a greater devotion to the saint, when he knew these happenings.



The Congregation of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus (RCJ), is a Religious Clerical Institute of apostolic life and pontifical right, which are composed of both priests and brothers.

With joy, zeal and dedication, they respond to the call to constantly become a living memory of the Lord Jesus Christ – his way of being and acting through the public profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Their goal is to grow in perfect charity, as Jesus himself taught his disciples.

Their Founder, St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia received a precious inspiration from the Holy Spirit, the Rogate; *“Pray (Rogate) therefore to the Lord of the harvest so that he may send out laborers into his harvest”* (Mt. 9:37-38, Lk. 10:2). That is why they devote themselves to a fourth vow, that is, the understanding of and zeal for the Rogate. It is in accordance to this charism that they live their consecration, and be dedicated to the building up

of the Church and to the salvation of the world, at the service of the Kingdom of God.

The religious family started as a “small caravan” on May 16, 1897 with the vesting of religious habit of the first three brothers. These were the first ones who wore the emblem sown on the cassock they received, which gave the distinguishing mark of this humble beginnings. On a cloth was printed a heart with the following inscription “*Rogate Ergo Dominum Messis Ut Mittat Operarios In Messem Suam*” (“Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest”). In these words, the Congregation finds its identity and spirituality. The Founder himself remindshis spiritual sons:

“Now, here is a new community just being born which comes forth in the Church...It needs intelligent generous people, who understand not only its sacred mission of charity towards the neighbor, like all the other modern institutions, but also of that divine holy word that makes it unique and special: Rogate ergo.” (*St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, Letters*)



**PROVINCIAL
ROGATE VOCATION CENTER**

**Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus
ST. MATTHEW PROVINCE**
Eriberta Lane, Don Jose Green Court,
Brgy. San Dionisio
1700 Parañaque City