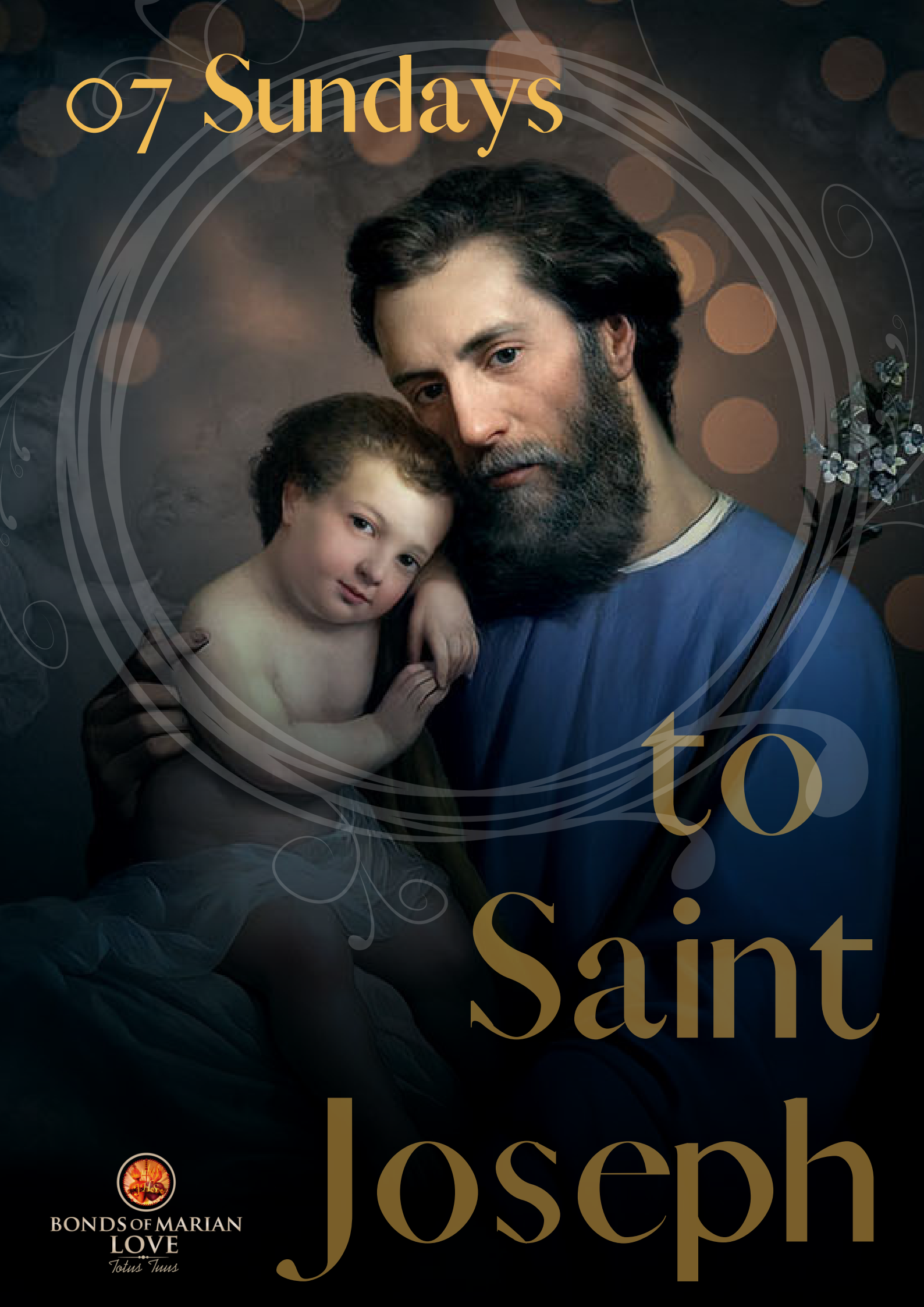


07 Sundays



to
Saint
Joseph



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

ACT OF CONTRITION

Initial prayer for each Sunday

My Lord and my God, in whom I believe and hope and whom I should love above all things; thinking of how much you have done for me and how ungrateful I have been to your favors, my heart is confused and compels me to exclaim: Have mercy, Lord, for this rebellious child, forgive me for my misconduct, that I grieve for having offended you, and I would rather die before sinning again. I confess that I am unworthy of this grace, but I ask you for the merits of your nurturing Father, Saint Joseph ... You, glorious Advocate of mine, receive me under your protection and give me the necessary favor to use this time well in your gift and usefulness of my soul. Amen. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us.



**BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE**
Totus Tuus

On the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph on the occasion of the motherhood of Mary.

Today's Holy Communion will be offered to give thanks to St. Joseph for the services he rendered to Jesus and Mary; the plenary indulgence will be applied by the souls of Purgatory who most loved this glorious Patriarch.



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus



First Sunday meditation

1. Mary and Joseph, faithful to their vow of virginity, lived as angelic spirits in their humble abode of Nazareth. However, God had operated in the august Virgin the great work of His power and His love. The Holy Spirit had descended to Her, and the Son of the Most High had become incarnate in Her virgin womb. Joseph ignored this mystery. What must have been his astonishment by seeing his immaculate wife become a mother! It was a phenomenon he could not explain. Heaven, however, preserves him from making the slightest suspicion of the faithfulness of the Queen of pure hearts. Joseph, as St. Augustine says, had directly received Mary from the temple and had led her from the house of God to her own abode. Joseph, according to the expression of St. Peter Chrysostom, was the witness of her innocence, the guardian of her modesty and the apologist of her virginity. Joseph, although he saw that Mary was to be Mother, at the same time noticed that She kept the radiant flash of the Holy Virginity and that the fruit which She wore in her womb had not altered in any way her angelic modesty. Witnessing the purity of Mary's thoughts, the sanctity of her affections, the modesty of her manners, he read in her eyes the proof of her innocence.



For this reason, according to St. John Chrysostom, Joseph, he did not look at appearances; Preferred to pursue in Mary a miracle of grace to believe in a weakness of nature on the part of a creature rather than angelic. Moreover, Joseph was well versed in the Holy Scriptures, and he meditated continually. He could not ignore the fact that the Messiah was to be born of a Virgin, and that the time had come when this mystery was to come. And as he was a witness of the holiness of Mary, he easily believed that She only could be the Mother of the promised Savior, in view of being the most immaculate of the virgins. Who am I, he said to himself, according to the feelings of a great number of Fathers of the Church, who am I to dare to have the Mother of my God close to me as my wife? How far I am from being pure enough to live with the noble creature! Uzza fell mortally wounded for having carried his hand over the material Ark of the Old Testament too lightly, what will happen to me if I were to fail once for all the veneration due to this Ark of the New Covenant, where is enclosed the true manna from heaven, and contains not only the law but the Divine Lawgiver Himself? Such were the feelings that filled the heart of the humble Joseph contemplating Mary.

2. While Joseph is prey to these anxieties, the Lord sends him an angel to reassure him. His words clearly show that humility, self-distrust, reverential fear, which is like the modesty of the soul, have motivated the resolution of this Holy Patriarch. In fact, the Angel Gabriel does not accuse him, he does not respond: on the contrary, it reassures and encourages him. Do not fear Joseph, he says: "NOLI TIMERE, " words full of sweetness that are like a firmness given to timid and fearful virtue.



They are the same words that the archangel had addressed to Mary to free her from the embarrassment in which it was announced that She was to be the Mother of God, even if she had consecrated her virginity to the Lord "NE TIMEAS," Mary. Thus, the same phrase that served to reassure and encourage Mary whose shy and virginal modesty had experienced a great disturbance also serves to calm and comfort the humble TIMORATA of Joseph. But in telling him not to fear, the angel uses this formula: Joseph, son of David: "JOSEPH, FILI DAVID, NOLI TEMERE." These words are full of mysteries, says St. John Chrysostom. Gabriel calls him by his name to inspire him with confidence, reminding him in his origin of the promise that God had made to David that the Messiah would be born of his race, an ineffable mystery that was fulfilled at that moment in Mary, descendant like him from the tribe of David. St. Fulgencio translates the words of the angel: Joseph, Mary is your legitimate Wife and the Holy Spirit is the one who has made you a gift, who has worked in her womb the mystery that fills you with holy fear. But this Spirit of Love does not want to break the chaste marriage that He Himself formed. Even though He has made the treasure He gave you infinitely more precious, He does not want to deprive you of the joy of possessing Him. God, making Mary His Mother, does not pretend that She ceases to be your wife; On the contrary, He entrusts her to your piety, so that you may protect her honor and support His Divine Son. The angel's words filled Joseph's heart with an ineffable joy. His assurance was so great, his joy so perfect, so perfect that he could have said to God as the prophet King: "Your consolations have rejoiced my soul in proportion to the multitude of my pains. In this way, for a single moment, God was sufficient to appease this tempest which stirs the spirit of Joseph and makes him revert in the sweetest tranquility. This always happens in similar cases, when the soul is subject to the Will of God as it should be. By your goodness, Lord, said the holy man Tobias, calmness follows the tempest closely, and after sorrow and tears, you shed joy in your hearts. What a powerful motive of patience and conformity to the Will of the Lord!





First Sunday example

Here is a fact referred to by very serious and worthy authors of faith which prove how agreeable it is to St. Joseph to consider his principal sorrows and joys, which is what form the devotion of SEVEN SUNDAYS, and how precious graces he seeks those who they practice it with pity. Two Franciscan fathers sailed along the coast of Flanders, when a horrible storm arose, which submerged the ship with three hundred passengers. Divine Providence arranged for these religious to take shelter on one of the boards of the vessel in which they held themselves between life and death for three days, always having the abyss beneath them, which threatened to swallow them. Being very devout of Saint Joseph, full of confidence in his powerful protection they were entrusted to him like the true table of salvation and like the benign star that had to lead them to the port. As soon as they finished their prayer, they were taken care of: the tempest ceased, the sky became clear and serene, the sea calmed and hope returned to the bottom of their hearts. But what filled their joy was to present them a young man full of grace and majesty who, after having greeted them kindly offered to serve as a pilot, which he did so easily, that after a little he jumped ashore.



There the two religious threw themselves at the feet of their liberator and after having affectionately declared to him his eternal gratitude, they begged him earnestly to tell them who he was: "I am Joseph, " he replied, "if you want to do something that pleases me, do not let the day pass without devoutly praying seven times the Sunday prayer and the angelic salutation in memory of the seven Sorrows with which my soul was afflicted, and in consideration of the Seven Joys with which my heart was comforted eminently during the time passed over the earth, living with Jesus and Mary. " These words disappeared, leaving them full of joy and penetrated with a sincere desire to honor and serve throughout their lives their glorious Protector. In this most moving event, we find very powerful reasons to admire the fidelity of St. Joseph to the profound help of those who invoke him and to extol his ineffable goodness, who asks so little for such great benefit for such a great good as the preservation of lifetime. Faithful servants of Saint Joseph, who want to be agreeable to his protector and serve him according to his wishes, a practice established in his honor, after he himself has stated in a formal way how grateful he is.

Imagine that he tells you like those poor religious: I am Joseph, in whom you must put all your trust; I have the power and the will to assist you in all your needs; Jesus Christ my son and the blessed Virgin Mary, my wife will not refuse me what I will ask of you, honor with love the memory of my pains and my joys, and you will ineffably experience the health effects of my help in the midst of the stormy sea World in which you live and in which you are continually assaulted by a thousand temptations and by all manner of trial. Pious devotees of Saint Joseph, accept this promise and be sure that the best way to achieve the favors of this great saint is, as he himself has stated strictly, to take part in his pains and his joys praying with this intention the prayers approved and enriched by indulgences by the Supreme Pontiffs: Feelings will fill your heart meditating these tender mysteries will be one of the most powerful testimonies of love that you can pay St. Joseph, and will ineffably incline to protect you during your life, and especially in the hour of death.

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers)



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

*On the sorrows
and joys of St.
Joseph at the
birth of the Son of
God in a manger*

Today's Holy Communion will be offered to give thanks to Saint Joseph by the favors that he has reached us; Plenary indulgence shall be applied to the souls of Purgatory who had special devotion to the Holy Family.





Second Sunday meditation

The time when the August Virgin Mary is going to give to the world the Promised Messiah, from so many centuries, has arrived. It is in vain that Joseph asks for his angelic wife an asylum to the inhabitants of Bethlehem; alone receives denials and orders. This is how the passage of the Gospel: “The Son of God has come in the midst of their own, and they have refused to receive him.” Joseph looks at himself in need to be sheltered in an abandoned stable; That’s where The Son of the Eternal wants to be born to live among men, what a pain so immense for the heart of Joseph seeing the Divine Child assimilated to the animals, lying like them on a bit of wet and cold straw in the most rigorous season of the year! How resonate even in the most intimate His father’s entrails, the first the lamentation of the Savior their sufferings! How sweet and bitter were the tears that mixed to which the Child God already spilled by our faults!



2. Joseph prostrated with his forehead on the dust, worships the newborn as his God; Recognizes him despite his annoyance before the Creator of Heaven and earth, as the Savior and Redeemer of the world, offers his heart to Him, his strength, his whole life, and gives a thousand thanks for having chosen him among all to serve Him as a father. And to add to his joy, Mary presents to him her Divine Child that God trusted to her tenderness; Joseph receives Him on his knees, he narrows with so much respect like love over his heart, bathes him of tears, covers him with kisses, he offers Him to the Eternal Father as a ransom hope and joy of his people, Israel, and puts Him back in the arms of His dear Mother as the only altar quite pure enough to receive Him. Oh! How to forget the fatigues and anxieties of the day when Joseph hears the angels celebrate with harmonious chants the birth of Him who he could call his Son, the richest among all his ancestors, in the middle of their deprivation possesses the most precious treasure of heaven; Before His glory is eclipsed all that of his kingdom lineage. He could contemplate with his eyes, narrow to his heart the Emmanuel that David waved from far in their prophetic successes as Their Lord and Their God; Joseph was going to spend his Life with Him who his ancestors had wanted so earnestly to see. What glory is not left eclipsed in the presence of this Glory? What happiness will not disappear before this happiness? This is how God forms in the heart of Joseph so pure and ineffable mixture of joy and sorrow, of joy and pain; But the sorrow does not disturb his joy and the joy nothing takes away from the bitterness of his grief, because the one and the other come from the same principle and the love that makes him enjoy, makes him also suffer.





Second Sunday example

The prior of a religious convent writes the following case: One of our religious sisters, aged 28 years, who had always enjoyed complete health, was attacked eight months ago from an evil to the throat that made her lose entirely the voice, spreading very long to the stomach. A continuous and heavy oppression, pains in the chest and in the back, weakness, all that proved to be a disease, which the doctors declared was hopeless. We did not lose our faith; we went 28 to Saint Joseph, and putting all our trust in him we consecrated repeated novenas, although there was no improvement in the poor patient. As she was so weak that she could not walk, we carried on procession to the venerable nursing image of Saint Joseph, accompanying her with candles burning; and there we begin the devotion of the SEVEN SUNDAYS, that pleases so much to the powerful Saint Joseph, so that we may obtain the cure that we wished, during the seventh week the patient suffered a lot, she was sad, and we were too because we reasonably feared that soon she would leave us.



However, the following Sunday showed desire to go to the choir to attend the Blessing of the Blessed Sacrament, which caused much suffering sustained by us, and arriving there without being able to breathe. At the Benediction she wanted to follow the other 29 sisters in the song of what she did with a muted voice. This was the moment chosen by the Husband of Mary to show us his powerful intercession. I found the Sick woman who left the choir and everyone was shocked when she said, "I can speak with a clear voice," and returning to the chorus with us, she started to pray with a strong accent and some litanies to Saint Joseph. We were all around her, staggered, listening to that voice that eight months ago we had not heard, and directed a thousand questions to our dear sister, admiring in her the happy effects of the protection of our Beloved Father. Freed from all oppression, she could not find words to express to us what she felt and from then on, in a normal state, practiced all the practices of the community.

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers)



About the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph at the Circumcision of the Child Jesus

As we prepare to receive Jesus in the sacrament of holy communion, greet Saint Joseph and ask for his blessing. When receiving Communion, strive to enter his holy disposition when he sees the blood of the Savior running down. Offer communion for the conversion of the enemies of the Church. Apply the indulgence for the souls who had a strong devotion to the precious blood of Jesus Christ.





Third Sunday meditation

1. The Messiah who came to comply with all laws out of humility wanted to undergo the very painful ceremony of circumcision. Joseph, in the opinion of many, was his minister. How harsh, that same ceremony must have been for him! It is true that all the Israelites saw their children subject to the same law. No matter how great the love they professed, it could not be compared to the love Joseph felt for Jesus, whom he loved as his son and as his God. On the other hand, this holy Patriarch knew perfectly well that although under the fragility of childhood, the Savior enjoyed the fullness of reason; that He voluntarily submitted to everything that was required of Him. He felt both the desire and the fear of the suffering, and knew that this bloody operation is not for Him but the prelude to and rehearsal of the tortures that were reserved for Him at Calvary.



The cries of the Divine Child and the anguish of his poor Mother tore Joseph's heart. However, full of supernatural valor and of faith more admirable than that of Abraham, the august Husband of Mary, understanding the designs of his Divine Son, offered to the Eternal Father the precious Blood that had just been poured out for our health and of which only one drop would have been enough to rescue a thousand Worlds.

2. Joseph, at the end of his sublime mystery, gave the Son of God the Adorable Name of Jesus, according to the order that he had received from Heaven itself. Who can express with what trust and with what love Joseph pronounced His name at once, name of healing given to our Divine Savior? This name of Jesus, which was to be our consolation in the pilgrimage of this life, and our hope to arrive at the hour of death. This adorable name that Joseph was so pleased to invoke frequently was sweeter to his mouth than exquisite honey, softer to his ears than a melody. The name of Jesus must be the beginning and end of all our actions; frequently invoked, frequent and pious this adorable name. He is our end goal, because we must not look at any other goal than that of his glory. Faithful servants of the best of masters, following the example of Saint Joseph take pleasure in repeating this name, which is above every name, and you will receive relief in your sorrows, consolation in your afflictions.



Like Joseph, call on the name of Jesus with faith in his power, with confidence in his love because The Savior Himself has told us: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you" (John 14:13). Tell him like the blind man: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me"(Lk 18:38) or like the ten lepers: "Jesus, master! Have mercy on us!" (Lk 17:13) and you will experience his favor and help. Remember that it was in the name of Jesus that the Apostles worked miracles. "In the name of Jesus the Nazorean, rise up and walk" said Saint Peter to the paralyzed (Acts 3:6). In the temptations that the devil gives you, invoke the holy name of Jesus, the mighty name in hell, since it scares every demon. This sacred name makes the rebellious angels tremble, because it reminds them of the One whose power destroyed the empire they had over men. O sacred name of Jesus! You truly are an oil poured out to heal our sores and communicate health to our loves, because who can think of this divine moment without representing at the same time the perfect model and the set of all the virtues in the highest degree in the person of Jesus? So put Your Holy Name in our souls, in our spirits, in our hearts and on our lips. Lord Jesus, grant us by this name the grace of living in you, the strength to imitate you and learn from you not to create new worlds, but to obey, to suffer and let ourselves be humbled.





Third Sunday example

A distinguished lady from Belgium wrote to a friend of hers, informing her of the favor she had received from Saint Joseph. A person already in her late years, whom she cared for very much, lived in complete forgetfulness of her religious duties, so much so that it was more than 35 years that not a single sacrament was received or practiced any act of devotion. Neither repeated instances of various influential friends, nor the providential notices sent to this lost sheep were enough to soften her hardened heart. This unhappy woman fell ill. That was when the charitable lady, alarmed by the critical state of the dear old woman, was looking for means so that this soul would not be lost. A soul that our Divine Redeemer gave so much for. Remembering the great power of Patriarch Saint Joseph (of whom she was very devout) for the relief of the dying begged him to come in her help, and full of fervor she promised him to do the devotion of the SEVEN SUNDAYS, in memory of his sorrows and joys, in the hopes to achieve the conversion of the sick woman she cared for so much.




Already on the first Sunday Saint Joseph began his work: a priest who was visiting the sick went to visit her, she received him very well and hinted that she wanted to confess; she made a wholesome and very painful confession; and asked him to administer the other sacraments the next day. 38 Despite her extreme weakness, the good old woman received kneeling on her bed her God, whom she had forgotten for so long and since then she did not cease to demonstrate the joy with which her soul was filled. She had lost faith, but she regained it and with it eternal glory. May this new favor, obtained by means of the devotion of the SEVEN SUNDAYS, move to other souls to practice it, to get the conversion of those people by which interest them.

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers)



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus



*About the sorrows
and joys of St.
Joseph in the
mystery of the
presentation of the
Child Jesus in the
Temple*

During the Holy Mass join the Priest and enter into the spirit of Saint Joseph when he offered Jesus to the Eternal Father.

Offer your willingness in Holy Communion. Plenary indulgences may be applicable for the souls who have worked the most to spread the devotion of Saint Joseph



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE

Totus Tuus



Fourth Sunday meditation

1. The Eternal Father choosing Joseph to replace him near his only son, He had communicated the love that burns in Himself for this beloved gift with 40 whom He pleases. Joseph had a Father's Heart for Jesus, and it was a huge sorrow he felt when he heard the old Simeon announce to his divine Mother that this beloved child, the fruit of her virginal womb, would be a sign of enmity, hatred, and revenge. The passion of the Savior, as had been predicted by the prophets was shown entirely, with the most mournful circumstances, to Joseph's heart plunged into a sea of bitterness. The regrettable voice of the prophets of Israel repeating one by one the sorrows of the Son of Man, resonated in the background of Joseph's heart, and his fatherly love lent even more alive sorrows at the complete table of the sufferings, the humiliations reserved to Christ.



Moving forward, Jesus will no longer be for Joseph but an object of pain; all the joys he will give him will be mixed with bitterness with every tender look that the Savior directed on him, will then come to the painful vision of His Divine eyes, veiled by the shadow of death. When Abraham, in obedience to God, made the sacrifice of his only son, he was careful to hide from Sarah the order he had received from heaven. The moans of the mother of Isaac, her despair at the sight of the immolation of her son of her wombs would have been a thousand times more intense the pain of the patriarch and perhaps time would have stopped his arm. God did not want to subject him to this hard test. The Lord, who knew the generosity of Joseph, treated him with less indulgence. Who could express what happened in his sensitive heart when he heard Simeon announce to Mary: **HER MATERNAL SOUL WOULD BE PIERCED WITH A SWORD OF SORROW?** Older than his august wife, he believed he would die first, and that Mary survived her Divine Son carrying alone the weight of his pain, immense as a sea without end below the surface and without a beach. What's the man, exclaims the Holy Church in its pathetic lamentations, what's the man who does not cry at the sight of a poor mother overwhelmed by so many misfortunes? Understand after this, if it is possible for you, the affliction of Joseph thinking in the terrible tests reserved for Mary, who was attached to him with such pure and narrow bonds.



The future developed all the mysteries of iniquity that were locked in their depths. Joseph saw the sinners and the impious converted into enemies of his son and his immaculate wife working incessantly to destroy the work of redemption, denying the divinity of Jesus Christ, rejecting the divine maternity of Mary. Thus, the RUIN OF MANY, foretold by Simeon, was sadly fulfilled before his eyes. This future of ingratitude and abominations tore apart Joseph's compassionate Heart.

2. He would not have resisted this deep affliction, if God, to lighten the weight of his pain, had not made him glimpse also those innumerable multitudes of all the nations that should serve Jesus and Mary and find in his love the Happiness of this world and a glorious resurrection at the end of time: POSITUS EST HIC IN RESURRECTIONEM MULTORUM IN ISRAEL. It would be necessary to love Jesus like Joseph to appreciate how he does it: the value of the souls rescued with the death of the Divine Son, to understand how much this hope sweetened their sacrifice and filled their Heart of Comfort, Jesus will be loved: Mary, his Holy Mother will receive the tributes of the noblest and purest hearts; everywhere there were lifted altars and until the end of times.



God will raise generous souls willing to sacrifice a thousand times their life and their most expensive interests to renounce the joy of serving them and making them know and love all. Oh, I seem to hear Joseph exclaiming in transports of your love! O well-loved souls, who have cost the blood of my Savior, yield to my ardent desires; come to embrace that unnamed God that I love and adore; come to enlist under his glorious banner. To assure you this favor I've done a concert with Mary, my immaculate wife, to the Lord, the sacrifice of his Son only. But if I can win your souls, if I can take them to heaven, my sufferings and sacrifices will become a source of joy and a source of all my happiness.



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus



Fourth Sunday example

A Daughter of Mary, feeling called from her tender age to take the habit of a school of charity, when she turned seventeen years old began the novitiate with such a fervor that she completed all tasks entrusted to her achieving the satisfaction of her superiors. Twelve years went by, deceived by "an illusion of the angel of darkness disguised into angel of light" (as she confessed later) was put on her head that God was asking her to sacrifice her vocation and should join a cloistered convent; so she separated herself from the path in which God had placed her to follow what she believed was her call. Taken the first step she was already lost, and even though she sought to persevere in her new vocation and face the remorse that persecuted her for not having wanted to obey her superiors, all was in vain; She was never calm, that led her to a weakening in her physical and moral forces, finally being forced to return to the bosom of her family. There, despite receiving the most loving care so that she remained in the world, she would never feel satisfaction in her heart, sighing continually for her first vocation.



Five months went by, but she couldn't get a favorable answer from her superiors for the requests she had placed, supplications, novenas, fasts, mortifications, she tried everything to calm the good God who was showing inflexibility. Assuming that she could never return to her first convent, the entrance to another one was facilitated, but her soul could not find any rest, remembering her fault. "My first vocation - she exclaimed - will always be a prosecutor who will reproach my infidelity." A friend of hers confident of her sorrows, advised her to recourse to Saint Joseph, getting under his patronage, and praying the devotion of the seven Sundays. She accepted the advice; invoked with her heart the mighty patriarch; mentioned her rights to his protection, she bears his name, and was the daughter of his Divine Wife, the Immaculate Virgin; she put her luck in his hands, and in the fervor of a simple trust, and it was the month of March as the end of his sorrows. For six weeks he did not cease to beg the Comforter of the afflicted souls, and on the 17th of that month by a patent provision of Divine Providence, she met her superior who, aware of her situation and repented, admitted her back into the community, on the condition of starting another novitiate. On the 19th day of Saint Joseph, she returned to wear the holy habit of her vocation with incredible joy and satisfaction impossible to explain. How necessary it is to find out what God asks of us and once known not to give up for anything of what has begun!

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers).



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

About the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph on the flight to Egypt

In the presence of God, seriously examine if there is any idol in your heart that takes Jesus' place, and ask Saint Joseph to help drive it away by offering Communion for this intention. Apply the indulgence for the eternal rest of deceased missionaries who have brought the devotion of Saint Joseph to unfaithful countries





Fifth Sunday meditation

1. The prediction of the holy old man Simeon was soon fulfilled. Just a few days had passed from the Presentation of the Savior at the Temple, when Saint Joseph received from the mouth of an angel the order to flee to Egypt to remove the divine Child from the wrath of Herod. It was a more rigorous journey, very long and full of dangers, VIAN SILVESTRENM, OBSCURAM ET INHABITATAN, said Saint Bonaventure. Joseph's poverty and the danger of the slightest delay did not allow him to procure the most indispensable things. Mary then was about sixteen years old and Jesus was a few weeks old. Only God knows what they had to suffer during this long and painful journey. Why is it not given, exclaims the pious Ludolph of Saxony, penetrate the profound silence of Scripture and know in detail the privations of the Holy Family? Such time we would discover to the consolation of the destitute, who often did not have a morsel of bread to quench their hunger, nor a little water to quench their thirst.



After two months of long journey, the august pilgrims finally reached the land of the desert. What torment for the heart of Joseph so lit with love for Jesus to have to live in the midst of an unfaithful people who looked with contempt at the Israelites and lavished upon vile creatures the homage and adoration due only to the true God! And then, what intense pain for the son of David, to see his people, those people where his ancestors reigned, suddenly deprived of this treasure for which he had longed for so long.

2. However, the Lord provided his servant with great consolation. As soon as the child Jesus had entered the land of Egypt, the demons worshiped for so many centuries in that unfaithful country, felt the presence of the one who was coming to destroy their empire. Overwhelmed with fear they fled in the presence of the son of Mary whose omnipotent virtue made them foresee the Son of the Eternal. The oracles fell silent, the gods kept forced silence, and their vain drills emptying into their marble or gold altars fell in pieces on the pavement of the temple. They paid homage to the true God, to whom only the adorations that are paid to them are due.



Joseph also experienced, during his stay in Egypt, a great joy in his heart when he heard the Incarnate Word pronounce his first word. Oh! who can express what happened in his soul when he heard call Jesus his Father, accompanying this sweet name with tender caresses that from Jesus were divine favors, testimonies reasoned not only from the love of a child for his father but from the love of a God towards the purest of all men. Perhaps this first word of the Word was linked to that powerful grace that populated Egypt with Saints, and that made of those deserts a school of virtue, where the selected souls went to shelter from the persecution of tyrants and the world's corruption.





Fifth Sunday example

A member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul writes the following: I was visiting, on behalf of the Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul in our city, a poor family very unhappy composed of a father, mother and five children. The father was sick in the hospital; the youngest of the children also suffered from a very serious illness whose progress towards foreshadowing an approaching death. His face was pale, emaciated, decomposed, and his general state of consumption was so extraordinary that it could well be said that the poor child, more than a human person, seemed like a living skeleton. The doctor, seeing that extreme situation, had to say to the good woman these words as sad and painful for a mother as it was: Your son is going to die, it is useless to prescribe medicine, his cure is impossible.



"What is impossible to man is not to God," the disconsolate mother replied. Upon hearing the doctor's prognosis, began to cry, but suddenly a glimmer of hope came to illuminate her spirit, and gave her a little courage again. He remembered that he had already given one of his children a few weeks before, a booklet entitled: SEVEN SUNDAYS DEVOTION CONSECRATED TO SAINT JOSEPH. She had already read and reread this little book several times. The protective traits of Saint Joseph that it contained came to her memory. She felt suddenly animated by the most lively confidence and turning to her children, she told them that it was necessary to start right then a novena to Saint Joseph, to ask for Pablo's healing (this was the name of the sick child). Saint Joseph did not make them wait long for the requested healing with their supplications and prayers so full of confidence in him. At the end of the ninth day, the sick child began to regain lost strength and appetite, always continuing to improve. Thankfully after fifteen days or three weeks at the most, his cure was complete, continuing in perfect health and with remarkable robustness. At the age of five he entered the school of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine. This wonder took place on Easter day, and he was a harbinger of precocious intelligence in that year.

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers).



About the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph on the return to Nazareth

Pray to Saint Joseph for the needs of the Sovereign Pontiff and of the Church, and offer communion for this intention. Apply the fruit of indulgence to those who bear the name Joseph.



A photograph of several marble busts of the Holy Family (Mary, Joseph, and Jesus) in a museum setting. The busts are light-colored and show signs of age. The text is overlaid on the image.

Sixth Sunday meditation

1. The stay of the Holy Family in Egypt lasted for seven years. They lived as poor foreigners with no help in the midst of an idolatrous people that ignored the first notions of charity. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had to suffer very harsh renouncement. However, our Holy Patriarch, resigned to the will of heaven, consoled himself seeing the Divine Child grow in the presence of God and men. Perhaps it would lessen the pains of his heavy heart by exclaiming with the prophet: "Kings on earth rise up and princes plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one. The one enthroned in heaven laughs" (Psalm 2). But the Lord, faithful to his promise, sends his Angel again to Joseph to announce that the cruel Herod has died miserably and can live without fear in the land of Israel.



This comforting news was suddenly followed by an even greater anxiety, which for a moment disturbed his happiness; he was afraid to go to Judea where Archelaus son of Herod, cruel and bloodthirsty like himself, reigned. He did not want to expose Jesus to a new persecution. Heaven approved of his prudence and inspired him to go to Galilee and dwell in Nazareth. This is how pious souls who have a great delicacy of conscience fear every day the misfortune of losing Jesus.

2. Joseph, encouraged by the inspirations of Heaven, dilated his heart in thanksgiving, using perhaps the words of David his grandfather, he repeated with Mary the psalm of the restoration or freedom of the people of Israel: IN EXITU ISRAEL DE EGYPT. What a consolation for the exiles, upon returning to their beloved homeland, to travel again to those places, full of pitiless memories in which they spent the most beautiful years of their lives. Joseph was happy, returning to see that land of blessing sanctified by the birth, the tears and the blood of the Word made flesh. How long it took him to prostrate himself in the temple of the Lord to offer him a just tribute of praise and thanksgiving.



But Jesus was still too young to make the entire trip on foot. Moreover, as he had grown, his weight was greater than the strength of his poor mother; so it is believed that Joseph took him most of the way. The joy of returning to Nazareth and the love he professed for the Divine Child made his weight sweet and light. Here is the way to find the most bitter sweet; do everything for the love of God.



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus



Sixth Sunday example

In a convent in the city of Falalen, province of Namur, in Belgium, there was an English nun who had many Protestant nieces. One of them went to visit her and when her aunt saw her so affectionate and humble, she asked her friends to pray for her niece, so that God would grant her the grace to become a Catholic. As she said goodbye, she gave her some warnings. Once back in England, she no longer remembered what her aunt had told her. However, the good nun did not stop praying to Saint Joseph for the conversion of her niece, urging the other nuns to help her achieve that grace whose end they, together with the girls in the classes, began the devotion of the SEVEN SUNDAYS, immediately a novena, and then another until to be able to obtain the grace that the heart longed for so much; the good-natured Patriarch could not resist so many pleas. That young lady felt impelled to return to Belgium to visit her aunt.



She asked her mother for permission and she granted it. When all the nuns saw her, they were amazed, and they recognized in it the mediation of Saint Joseph. The English girl seemed so bewildered not knowing what was happening to her and told the nuns that she had only come to see her aunt. The invocation of the SEVEN SUNDAYS began again, with the resolution to pray fervently to the Heart of Jesus through the patron saint of Belgium, the Virginal Spouse of Mary, in order to save a soul. After five weeks she saw her aunt again, but she continued sad and pensive, without consistency in her ideas and believing herself ill without being so, she resolved to leave. The nuns, upon entering the classes, told the girls, "Your pleas have little merit, since the English girl will continue to be a Protestant." Seventy-three childish voices responded in agreement, "Yes, she will be baptized. Saint Joseph will bless our efforts." The next day a novena was started with fervor which had to conclude the same day as the SEVEN SUNDAYS. On Monday the young woman came to say goodbye to her aunt and the other Sisters, but inside her there was a combat between grace and joy, which did not leave her a moment of repose. At last grace prevailed, and unable to resist any more impulses, she presented herself again to her aunt, saying that she wanted to return to the faith of her ancestors. Saying this, you could read on her face the great joy that filled her. The following Sunday they concluded the SEVEN SUNDAYS and the novena. On the next Friday the English girl received holy baptism. Glory be to God who, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, welcomed that sheep separated from the flock of the Good Shepherd and rewarded the faith and trust of those good religious and simple girls.

(Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers).



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

SEVENTH SUNDAY

WHEN HE FOUND THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AFTER HE WAS LOST

*About the sorrows
and joys of Saint
Joseph, when he
found the Child Jesus
in the Temple after
he was lost.*


At communion consecrate yourselves to Saint Joseph, and propose to do this devotion of the SEVEN SUNDAYS every year. Apply the fruit of the indulgence to the souls in Purgatory who were faithful in practicing it.



BONDS OF MARY IN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

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CHRIST AMONG THE DOCTORS.



Seventh Sunday meditation

1. Who can form an idea of the bitter pain that Joseph's heart felt when, upon returning from the Temple of Jerusalem, he realized that Jesus, whom he believed was with his Mother, had left them? In his deepest humility, this Holy Patriarch blamed himself for this loss and bitterly worried about this misfortune. Mary's excessive affliction increased his even more, and without a miracle of providence he would not have resisted this cruel test. Who will have caught him during the night? Is he not suffering the most painful loss? Oh! Without a doubt He suffers, He is hungry, He is without shelter; Perhaps, little satisfied with my services, he has gone to join his predecessor John in the desert. Origen, in the Octave of the Epiphany, assures that Saint Joseph, on this occasion, suffered more than all the martyrs.



Oh prodigy of holiness, of prudence, of strength and perfection. In such an unheard of pain, in such an extreme affliction, Joseph does not murmur or complain, he does not lose the peace of his soul. No movement of impatience and inordinate sadness comes to disturb his spirit. The divine teacher, moved by so much virtue, wanting to reward Joseph who felt so ardent and pure love for him, inspired him to go look for him in the Temple with Mary.

2. Great and immense was the joy that Joseph experienced when he found the Divine Son; he never tired of contemplating her adorable actions, with a tenderness that made him shed abundant tears. He repeated with David, his ancestor: You have changed my mourning into joy and covered my heart of joy. Let us learn from this Holy Patriarch to look at the loss of Jesus as the greatest of all evils, and then of having shared with him the extreme pain he felt in that circumstance, let us share in his joy and happiness for having found Jesus, the treasure, his love and his life. Glorious Saint Joseph, if I am ever so unfortunate to lose Jesus because of my own fault, I earnestly beg you to help me seek Him with as much fervor as you do, so that having reconciled with Him for a sincere penance, I may remain with Him in time and in eternity.





Seventh Sunday example

The following example may serve as a guideline for those who are to marry. In our times, which mainly concerns itself with self interest and external cares, when the well-being in the present life and eternal salvation depend on their agreement. A young nobleman, son of virtuous parents, who omitted nothing to form a solid heart for him pious, after having prayed much to God to properly recognize his vocation, he was convinced that it was not called to the priesthood. However, he continued to do with great fervor his particular devotions, confessing and receiving communion every week and being exact in all these holy practices. Although he belonged to a distinguished family related to high society, he always distanced himself from those dangerous amusements in which many reckless youngsters compromise their future by taking a companion, a young woman, captivated only by external looks, so easy to lose.



Well convinced that **GOOD MARRIAGES ARE ALREADY ENROLLED IN HEAVEN**, this excellent young man did not forget every day to beg Saint Joseph to make him find a companion of a solid piety to withstand the seductions of the century. One day on the occasion of a good deed that he had between hands, had to meet with a respectable lady who with her two daughters lived very Christian lives. Seeing them, he experienced a certain premonition of being with one of those young women destined by God to share his fate with her. Consequently, he asked his mother, who gave him the good clothes that adorned that young man, and she gladly gave her consent. The lady confessed later simply, that for a long time he made the same request, and that when that young man entered, he sensed at the same time that God was sending her for his support. But it was the case, that the father of the lady having to part with his daughter filled their relationship with all kinds of obstacles, much to the young man's disgust. The young man had to overcome them and to know the will of God in a matter of so much transcendence, they were all determined to begin the devotion of the **SEVEN SUNDAYS** in honor of Saint Joseph, at the end of May 1866. The favor of this glorious Patriarch was not long in coming; for in the following August the marriage was celebrated with great satisfaction on both sides, which proves that heaven is pleased to bless those betrothals for whose success they have asked for light and grace, especially if the effective intercession of that saint to whom Jesus Christ was pleased to be subject on earth has mediated. (Pray the Sorrows and Joys with the Our Fathers).



07 SORROWS AND JOYS

To be said each Sunday. All together

1ST

THE MOTHERHOOD OF MARY

Oh, most chaste Spouse of Mary! I pity you for the terrible anguish you suffered when you believed that you should separate yourself from your immaculate wife, and I congratulate you on the ineffable joy that the mystery of the incarnation caused you to know from the mouth of an angel. Through this sorrow and joy I ask you to comfort our souls in life and death, obtaining the grace to live as Christians and to die holy in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.

2ND

THE BIRTH OF THE SON OF GOD IN A STABLE.

Oh, most blessed Patriarch, that you were raised to the dignity of the putative father of the Incarnate Word! I pity you for the sorrow you felt when you saw the baby Jesus being born in so much poverty and helplessness; and I congratulate you on the joy you had in hearing the soft melody with which the angels celebrated the birth, singing "Glory to God in the highest." By this sorrow and joy I ask you to grant us to hear, when leaving this world, the heavenly songs of the angels in glory. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.

3RD

THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Oh, perfect pattern in conformity with the divine will! I pity you for the sorrow you felt when you saw that the Child God was shedding his blood in the circumcision; and I rejoice in the consolation you experienced when you heard him call Jesus. For this sorrow and joy I ask you to reach us so that we can overcome our passions in this life and die by invoking the sweet name of Jesus. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.



BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE
Totus Tuus

07 SORROWS AND JOYS

4TH

THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Oh, Most Holy Saint, to whom were entrusted the mysteries of our redemption! I pity you for the sorrow caused by the prophecy with which Simeon announced what Jesus and Mary were to suffer; and I rejoice in the consolation given by Simeon himself, prophesying the multitude of souls to be saved by the Passion of the Savior. I beg you for this sorrow and joy to reach us to be the number of those who are to be saved by the merits of Christ and by the intercession of his Mother. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.

5TH

FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Oh, watchful steward of the Son of God humanized! I am sorry for how much you suffered in the flight to Egypt, the great fatigues of that long pilgrimage and what it cost you to attend to the subsistence of the Holy Family in exile; but I rejoice in your joy at seeing the idols fall to the ground when the Savior entered Egypt. For this sorrow and joy I ask you to reach us, fleeing from the occasions of sin, let us see the fall of the earthly affections, and let us live only for Jesus and Mary, until we offer our last breath. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.

6TH

THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

Oh, glorious Saint Joseph, an angel of the earth who admired the King of Heaven, subject to your dispositions! If your comfort, when returning from Egypt, was altered with the fear of King Arche Lao, then reassured by the Angel lived joyfully with Jesus and Mary in Nazareth. Through this sorrow, and joy, you reach your devotees that free our hearts of harmful fears, we enjoy tranquility of conscience, we live safe with Jesus and Mary and we die having them at our side. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.



**BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE**
Totus Tuus



07 SORROWS AND JOYS

7TH

THE LOSS AND FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Oh, model of holiness, glorious Saint Joseph! I pity you for the sorrow you felt in losing the Child God without being able to find him in three days, and I congratulate you on the joy with which you found him in the temple. through this sorrow and joy I ask you to reach us the grace of never losing Jesus through sin; and if we unfortunately lose it, serve us your intercession for the tears of penance, and live together with Him until the last breath of our life. Our Father and Hail Mary and Glory Be.

ANTIPHON

He had Jesus when he began his public life for about thirty years and still believed himself to be a son of Joseph.

V. O Saint Joseph! Pray for us.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER

Oh God, who with ineffable providence deserved to choose the blessed Saint Joseph as your Mother's husband, we pray that we may deserve to have in heaven an intercessor whom we on earth worship as protector, Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever the centuries. Amen.



**BONDS OF MARIAN
LOVE**
Totus Tuus





FIRST PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Most Chaste Joseph, husband of Mary: I rejoice to see you raised to such a sublime dignity and adorned with such heroic virtues. For the sweetest kisses and narrow embraces that you gave to the Divine Jesus, I beseech you to admit me in the number of your servants. Protect the virgins and grant us all the grace to preserve the purity of body and soul. Help the poor and those afflicted by poverty and bitter anguish you suffered in the company of Jesus and Mary in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth; and make us suffer patiently our labors, we deserve eternal rest. Be protective of the poor and husbands so that they may live in peace and educate in the Holy fear of God to his children. Give to the priests the virtues that correspond to their state to treat worthily the Body of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Those who live in community inspire them to love religious observance. To the dying, assist them in that supreme trance, because you had the joy of dying in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Tend your protective hand to the whole Church, for you have been declared by the Vicar of Christ Patron of the Universal Church. And therefore, deliver the Son of God from the wrath of Herod, free the Church, your bride, from the wrath of the wicked and obtain that the evil days are abbreviated, and come serenity and peace. So be it.





**SECOND PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH
COMPOSED AND WRITTEN BY HIS HOLINESS LEO XIII**

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. 86 O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

