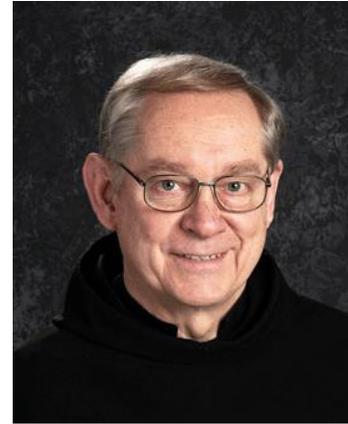


Sunday, March 15, 2020

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

At this point in March, the thoughts of many people turn to St. Patrick. Fewer remember, two days later, the Solemnity of the Universal Patron of the Church; a man who is mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer of every Mass; the patron saint of Fathers, a happy death, many nations, and more: St. Joseph.



Because God chose him to be the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, St. Joseph has been highly honored throughout the Church's history. In a somewhat recent period of our Church's history, Pope John Paul II wrote a beautiful encyclical about him, entitled *Guardian of the Redeemer*.

In all the gospel events associated with St. Joseph, he does everything that God asks of him without hesitation or question. He shows us the importance of putting our faith into practice by the way he lived his life in obedience to God's will.

In the Mass prayers for his Feast, St. Joseph is called a **wise** and faithful steward. In the New Testament, St. James writes, *"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace"* (James 3.13,17-18)

Are our decisions made with pure intentions...with peacefulness...to achieve the greatest possible good? Our "yes" to this question will lead to true happiness and peace because of it being done the right way.

Those same Mass prayers call St. Joseph a just man. While there are several definitions for being just, it can simply refer to one who lives out the great commandment: love God and show that love through love for neighbor. Following the example of St. Joseph, then, leads to a life of true discipleship.

Peace and Blessings,

Father Conrad