

*Meditations in preparation for the Solemnity of St. Joseph
Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará*

Meditation of Day 1 (February 18)

"Intercession of the Saints"

Some may ask, why should we ask the saints to intercede for us before God, if Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and men? Since scripture says 'There is only one God, and only one Mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus' (1 Tim. 2, 5; Hebr. 8, 6 and 9, 11-14).

The saints do not prevent us from directing ourselves straight to Jesus Christ, God the Father or the Holy Spirit. The saints do not take us away from God; but with their examples of Christian faith encourage us to approach God with the sole mediation of Jesus Christ.

Now, when the Catholic Church says that the saints are our intercessors before Jesus Christ, that does not mean that they are the ones who work miracles. It is always God the Father, Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit, who work wonders among us, although it may be that miracles are done 'by the intercession' of these saints.

We see the example of Mary at the wedding in Cana. It is Mary the Mother of Jesus who discreetly invites her Son to perform a miracle by saying: "They do not have wine." And Jesus makes her understand that the time to perform signs has not yet come. However, through the intercession of his Mother, Mary, Jesus brings about his first miracle (Jn. 2, 1-12). In this way we understand the biblical sense of the intercession of the saints.¹

Saint Thomas Aquinas, in the *Suma Theologica* says: prayers offered for others proceed from charity, as stated above (Articles 7 and 8), the greater the charity of the saints in heaven, the more they pray for wayfarers, since the latter can be helped by prayers: and the more closely they are united to God, the more are their prayers efficacious: for the Divine order is such that lower beings receive an overflow of the excellence of the higher, even as the air receives the brightness of the sun. Wherefore it is said of Christ (Hebrews 7:25): "Going to God by His own power . . . to make intercession for us" [Vulgate: 'He is able to save for ever them that come to God by Him, always living to make intercession for us.']. Hence Jerome says (Cont. Vigilant. 6): "If the apostles and martyrs while yet in the body and having to be solicitous for themselves, can pray for others, how much more now that they have the crown of victory and triumph."

Saint Joseph, pray for us

¹ Rev. Miguel Angel Fuentes, Theological Response, Is the veneration of images and the cult of Saints licit?