

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

Meditation of Day 13 (March 1)

“Joseph most Just”

Pray for us

The Gospel calls St. Joseph the "just one" (Mt 1:19), *which has first and foremost the characteristics of a husband.*¹

In his commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew, Bover explains, *that this justice of St. Joseph is not, in a more general or indeterminate sense, just honesty or goodness, nor in a more particular sense, strict justice, but rather, in a certain sense intermediate, the habitual will to give to each his own, not to injure the rights of others, and more specifically, to fulfill in all the divine commandments, to conform his life with the divine will. This praise of Joseph's justice, if, at first glance, does not seem extraordinary, it is under another concept. The dignity of the great patriarch, as legal father of the Son of God and husband of the Mother of God, is incomparably superior to any other created dignity, other than divine motherhood. Proportional to this very high dignity and to the paternal and conjugal offices linked to it, were the graces with which God enriched him, because he was the head or head of the sacred family. And if Joseph was fair, he corresponded to these extraordinary graces, and if he corresponded to them, his holiness lived up to his excellent dignity: superior to that of all the saints of the Old and New Testaments, only inferior to the infinite holiness of Jesus and the almost infinite holiness of Mary.*²

We ask St. Joseph for all parents to have the grace to grow in virtue, in imitation of St. Joseph.

¹ St. John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation Redemptoris Custos*, August 15th, 1989

² Fr. Joseph Bover, SJ *The Gospel of St. Matthew*, Balmes Editorial, Barcelona 1946, pg. 43- 44