**Meditation on Day 26 (March 14)**

*"St. Joseph Hope of the Sick"*

*Pray for us*

"Offer to God the disease itself, remembering for whom and for what it is being suffered, and by conforming oneself to the will of God, this is already in itself a very excellent prayer."

Saint John of Avila, writing to a sick priest, says: "Do not consider, friend, what you would do when you were healthy, but how much you would please the Lord with contentment of being sick. And if you seek, as I think you seek, purely the Will of God, then what else does it matter to you to be sick or healthy, if His Will is all our good?"

This is so true that God is less glorified by our works than by our acceptance to his holy Will. That is why Saint Francis de Sales said, that God is served more in our sufferings than in our works.

Sometimes we will lack the doctor and the medicines, or else the doctor will not give a correct diagnosis. Even in this we must also be conformed to the God's Will, which thus arranges all things for our good and profit."[1]

Saint Andre Bessette, the saint of Montreal, who was very devoted to Saint Joseph, always used to recommend to the sick who visited the Oratory: *"Pray to Saint Joseph." "Make a Novena to St. Joseph."*

*"When you invoke St. Joseph, you don't have to talk much. Your Father in Heaven knows what you need; so, does your friend St. Joseph."*

*St. Andre used to say: "Go before the statue of Saint Joseph and say: If you were in my place, Saint Joseph, what would you do? Then, pray for this in my name.*[2]

We ask St. Joseph for the grace of knowing how to suffer the crosses of each day and to thank God for them, since they are signs of divine love and become pearls for the soul. We ask for the grace to ask with confidence for all our needs.

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[1] Rev. P. Miguel Angel Fuentes, *El dolor Salvífico*, Ed. IVE Press, NY, 2007, pg. 23.
[2] Bernard Lafreniere, CSC, *Brother Andre According to Witnesses*, pg. 78- 79