

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

**Meditation on Day 29 (March 17)**

*"Protector of the Holy Church"*

*Pray for us.*

On December 8 of this year marks 150 years of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the Church, declared by Pope Pius IX, in a solemn decree *Quemadmodum Deus* of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

In his Encyclical Letter *Quamquam Pluries*, Pope Leo XIII stated the following: “the reasons why the St. Joseph must be considered a special Patron of the Church, and for which, in turn, the Church expects a lot from his example and assistance, is born mainly from the fact that he is the husband of Mary and adoptive father of Jesus... Joseph, at the time, was the legitimate and natural custodian, head and defender of the Holy Family(...). It is, therefore, convenient and very fitting that St. Joseph who, just as he then used to protect the family of Nazareth at all times, so protects now and defends with his celestial patronage the Church of Christ”<sup>1</sup>

We ask St. Joseph to continue interceding for the Holy Church to be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We can pray with some of the words of Pope Leo XIII: "Remove from us, oh loving father, this scourge of errors and vices ... Assist us promisingly from heaven in this fight against the power of darkness ...; and as you once saved the threatened life of the child Jesus from death, so now defend the holy Church of God from hostile enemies and from all adversity.”

---

<sup>1</sup> St. John Paul II *Redemptoris Custos*, 28; Leo XII, Encyclical Letter *Quamquam pluries* (August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1889): I, C pg. 283 (Spanish Edition)