

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

Meditation of Day 11 (February 28)

“Diligent protector of Christ”

Pray for us.

We read in the Gospel of St. Matthew that after the Magi left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13); and to stay there until God told him, because Herod was looking for the Child Jesus to kill him.

“To Joseph; the head of the Holy Family, the Angel addresses a message in the name of God. Take the Child and his mother: this is a meaningful expression, which highlights the virgin motherhood of Mary.

Fleeing, He makes an escape. The prophecy of the elder Simeon begins to be fulfilled: Jesus is the target of contradiction and persecution. God does not perform a miracle, as he could easily do. The cross was to mark all the steps of the Redeemer in his earthly life.

The road to Egypt had to be long and laborious. God wanted Joseph to be entirely led by Divine Providence. Joseph's fatherly heart was anxious by the desire of Herod to kill his child, stimulating his diligence and hastening his preparations for the trip.¹

With this meditation, we can see how St. Joseph protected and defended the Holy Family.

We can reflect by asking ourselves, if we have the same disposition to protect our children and to keep them from what may harm them, especially sin.

Are we aware of the importance of caring for our children's souls for salvation?

Do we help to form an upright conscience in them to know what is wrong and what is wrong?

We ask for the grace to imitate St. Joseph in the protection he had for Jesus by the way that we care for our own children.

¹ Fr. Jose M. Bover SJ The Gospel of St. Matthew, Balmes Editorial, Barcelona 1946, pg. 59- 60