

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

Meditation on Day 20 (March 8)

“Lover of poverty”

Pray for us

It is a Father full of kindness who provides for the birds and flowers of the field, and who does not abandon those who so confidently surrender to Him. We see in the person of St. Joseph one who, following God's Will, did not fear the demands imposed by welcoming the Savior.

St. Joseph is the model of those humble ones that Christianity raises up to great destinies. He is the proof that in order to be a good and genuine follower of Christ, there is no need of great things-it is enough to have the common, simple and human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic.¹

We share the testimony of one of our sisters, who illustrates how we are assisted by Heaven when we look for the essentials:

“When I was Mistress of Novices in Ecuador, in 2007, we had many debts which we were paying through the proceeds from different activities. Nevertheless, we had to pay an additional 300 dollars per month in order to rent the house. The moment arrived when we could not do more activities and begging trips -- which required time outside of the convent – without neglecting our schedules, which is necessary to safe-guard, especially in the houses of formation. Without really having anyone to ask for help, I went to the chapel to ask Saint Joseph. Less than a half an hour later, the doorbell rang. Seconds later, a novice came to me saying that a man who did not want to reveal his name had given her an envelope. When I opened it, I found 300 dollars!”²

We can ask ourselves:

Do I turn to God when I have a need? Do I accumulate too many material goods that I don't need, causing me to forget God and the salvation of my soul?

Do I attend to the neediest in whom I should see the poor Christ?

Let us see in St. Joseph the model of poverty that Our Lord speaks of in the Gospel and ask Him to help us have a generous heart, detached from wealth in order to seek the Kingdom of Heaven.

¹ St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Redemptoris Custos*, August 15, 1989, n. 24

² St. Joseph and the Servants of the Lord, Second Edition, pg. 54