

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

Meditation on Day 24 (March 12)

“Pillar of families”

Pray for us.

In the Holy Family of Nazareth, St. Joseph was chosen by God, to be the "pillar" of Jesus and Mary. He had *the important task of "raising" Jesus, that is, feeding, clothing and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father.*¹

With parental authority over Jesus, God has also granted Joseph the corresponding love, that love that has its source in the Father, "from whom every family takes its name in heaven and on earth" (Eph 3:15)².

When the foundation of our spiritual life is sustained in Jesus Christ, who is “our rock, our refuge, our liberator, our strong asylum, our fortress, rock in whom I am safe” as Psalm 18 says; We can be a true support for our family and for society, just as St. Joseph. The trials and the difficulties will come, but our faith instead of getting lost and weakened, will be strengthened. We must become strong in Christ!

Pope Saint John Paul II said *“There can be no authentic human growth in peace and justice, in truth and freedom, if Christ is not present with his saving power (Message for the Second World Youth Day of November 30, 1986). Transforming our life in Christ means letting ourselves be taken by his love. A love that asks for consistency in one's own behavior, that demands to adapt one's conduct to the doctrine and commandments of Jesus Christ and his Church; a love that fills our lives with happiness and peace that the world cannot give (cf. Jn 14,27), even though it needs it greatly.*

In the heart of each and every one, there exists that disease which affects us all: personal sin, which takes root more and more in the conscience, as the sense of God is lost. As the sense of God is lost! Yes, beloved young people. Be attentive to not allowing God's sense to weaken in you. You cannot overcome evil with good if you do not have that sense of God, of his action, of his presence that invites us to always bet on grace, for life, against sin, against death. The fate of humanity is at stake: "Man can build a world without God, but this world will eventually turn against man" (Reconciliatio et Penitentia, 18).³

We can reflect:

On what basis is my family life and my personal life based?

Do we seek to be the support of our families?

Do I seek to feed my spiritual life in the Holy Eucharist?

Let us ask St. Joseph for the grace of having our life founded on Jesus Christ.

¹ St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, August 15 1989 n. 16

² *Idem*, n. 7

³ St. John Paul II, Discourse to the Youth in Chile, Thursday April 2nd 1987