

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

**Meditation of the 25th (March 13)**

*"Comfort of the afflicted"*

*Pray for us.*

*Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted (Mt 5:5 NAB), that is to say, all those who are suffering some tribulation or affliction, can suffer with patience. In the midst of tears, they still trust in God—because they will be comforted. They live with the double consolation of hope: the balm of present sadness and perspective of eternal joys.*

Saint Joseph, the foster father of the Son of God, intercedes for those who suffer any tribulation, that they may reach out to God for comfort and strength.

We share the testimony of a family member of two of our Sisters, she writes:

*Back in 2013 I had recently finished college and began working full time. I had always dreamed of getting married and having children right after I finished school, but relationships had not worked out. My sisters recommended a novena to St. Joseph with the intention of finding a good man who would one day be my husband. The three of us (my two Servidora sisters and I) prayed the Thirty-day prayer together while we were on pilgrimage for World Youth Day 2013 in Brazil. Shortly after I returned home I met Nick.*

*Nick and I had met before, but something was different about meeting him this second time, and we soon began dating. Nick proposed to me in 2016 and on January 21st, 2017 we got married. We had talked about having children, and I always knew that I wanted many, but he always said let's just start with one.*

*A little before our first wedding anniversary we decided we wanted to start trying to have a baby and after about six months or so we finally got our first positive pregnancy test. At the first ultrasound appointment the doctor could not find a heartbeat and we learned that our baby had not grown more than his size at six weeks gestation. We repeated the ultrasound a week later and found the same results, so we were told that we would miscarry. We lost two more babies after that. A little over a year went by, and three little ones that we were never able to meet, we began losing hope of having a successful pregnancy and large family. Through all three miscarriages our faith was tested like we never imagined, but we both found consolation and reassurance in the Thirty-day Novena to St. Joseph. We fervently prayed for a baby whether through adoption or natural pregnancy.*

*At last we found out that we were pregnant again in the summer of 2019, nonetheless, that knowledge brought great worry. We both leaned heavily on the intercession of St. Joseph to get us through this one, no matter the outcome. When we went for our doctor's appointment and everything seemed to be normal and healthy, we learned that the baby's due date would be March 19th. We both knew it was a blessing due to St. Joseph's compassion, and now eight months later, we are impatiently awaiting the moment when we can share our hope and love with our baby.*

We give thanks for this grace that was granted through the intercession of St. Joseph.

We ask St. Joseph's intercession for all the families who are suffering, those who have difficulties conceiving, and in a special way for every mother awaiting the birth of her child.

St. Joseph, Comfort of the afflicted, Pray for us.