

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

Meditation of the 27th (March 15)

*"Patron of the Dying,"
Pray for us.*

We pray to St. Joseph, that at the time of our death, he may give us the necessary help.

“Final perseverance is always a grace of graces, the free gift par excellence; but nothing is comparable to the Holy Abandonment, which moves our heavenly Father to grant us this decisive grace. He, who goes in search of the sinner, would He ever reject a soul that lives only in love and filial submission?”¹

Our Lord said to Saint Faustina speaking of his mercy with sinners:

*“My child, do you fear the God of Mercy...My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of my goodness.”*²

We share with you the testimony of one of our Sisters about the unexpected preparation for a holy death. She writes:

“As a community we would like to give thanks for a happy death, brought about through the intercession of St. Joseph.

In the Cathedral, they gave us the address of a lady to whom we had to take Holy Communion once a week. During these visits, we met her husband, a man who was far from the Church and who was a self-proclaimed Communist. As time went on, we invited him to the Cathedral to play the organ in one of the Holy Masses on Sundays. He accepted, and so every Sunday he asked more about the Church. He told himself ‘I don't know what I'm doing here.’

Meanwhile, God was working in his soul. Thus, one day he asked to go to confession, he did so. Soon after he was diagnosed with cancer. We began, then, to bring Holy Communion to him as well as to his wife. Thus, we were preparing him for death and we had the grace to assist him until the last moment.

The day before his death he received the Anointing of the Sick, the blessing of two priests, we prayed the Holy Rosary. We told him to greet the Virgin and Saint Joseph for us, to which he responded smiling with great effort. The next day he passed away.

We thank St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin, Our Mother of Heaven, for having been able to meet and attend this little soul that, which we devoutly believe, is already enjoying the Heavenly beatitude, having received so many divine favors and with such a holy disposition.”

We ask St. Joseph to intercede for all those who have died in our families. We also ask for his intercession for all those who are dying, that they may have a holy death by asking for forgiveness and receiving God's mercy.

St. Joseph, Patron of the dying, Pray for us.

¹ Dom Vital Lehodey, Holy Abandon

² Diary of St. Faustina, n.1485