

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

Meditation of Day 7 (February 24)

"Saint Joseph"

Pray for us.

Since the first centuries, the Fathers of the Church, taking inspiration from the Gospel, have stressed that St. Joseph, by his loving care for Mary and by dedicating himself with joyful commitment to the formation of Jesus Christ¹, also guards and protects the mystical body, the Church, of which the Holy Virgin is figure and model. ”²

St. Joseph in a special way was chosen by God to be the adoptive father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and thus participates in the sacrosanct Mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of the Word made flesh within the Blessed Virgin Mary.³ He participated in this mystery like no other person, except for Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word.⁴

Truly, the dignity of the Mother of God reaches so high that nothing can be more sublime. Also, between the Blessed Virgin and Joseph a conjugal bond tightened. There is no doubt that the highest dignity, of the Mother of God far exceeds all creatures. Therefore, St. Joseph came closer than any other (...) he imposes himself among all by his great dignity, since by divine disposition he was custodian and, in the belief of men, father of the Son of God. It followed that the Word of God submitted to Joseph, obeyed him and gave him that honor and reverence that children owe their parents.

It may be that many of us have heard very little about devotion to St. Joseph.

Saint Teresa of Jesus explains: "Take the glorious Saint Joseph as sovereign and master and entrust much to him ... I have received more good from him than I even knew how to ask."⁵

Let us ask for this grace to be able to grow in knowledge of our Holy Patriarch, St. Joseph.

¹ St. Iranaeus, *Adversus haereses*, IV, 23, 1:S. Ch100/ 2,692- 294

² St. John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation, Redemptoris Custos*, August 15th, 1989, n.1

³ *Directory of Spirituality*, 36

⁴ St. John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation, Redemptoris Custos*, August 15th, 1989, n.1

⁵ St. Teresa of Jesus, *Autobiography*, c.6, n.6