

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

Meditation on Day 8 (February 25)

"Renowned offspring of David"

Pray for us.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, he says "Joseph, Son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:20-21)... The Evangelist Matthew explains the significance of this moment while also describing how Joseph lived it. However, in order to fully understand both its content and context, it is important to keep in mind the parallel passage in the Gospel of Luke.¹

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. (LK 1:26-27)."

In reference to the offspring of Joseph, who came from David's house, a Christian tradition has maintained that Mary was also of the same race. This was thought by St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Irenaeus and St. Justin. The grammatical construction, in fact, can be understood as much of Joseph, as is generally done, as of Mary herself, reading in this case: "a virgin of the house of David, married to a man named Joseph." This would agree with what St. Paul says in Rom 1:3, that Jesus is a descendant of David "according to the flesh," which fits more closely if one understands Mary. As Joseph was a true adoptive father, he legally made Jesus belong to his own house, which was David's; therefore, Mary's lineage to that ancestry is freely discussed. "²

Thank you and God Bless!

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

² Rev. Miguel Angel Fuentes, IVE, Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, 2015, pg.24