

*In Active Contemplation*

# WE COMMUNICATE

PROVINCE OF INDIA  
a Quarterly Bulletin

VOLUME XIII

ISSUE 2

APRIL 2021



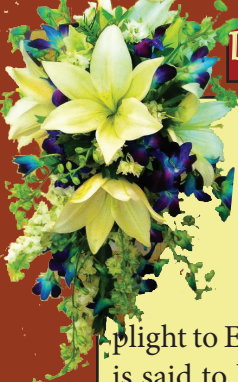
## *Message from the Provincial*

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from, 8th December 2020, to 8th December 2021. To honour Saint Joseph and to mark this occasion the SMC team have chosen to dedicate this issue of ‘We Communicate’ to Saint Joseph. I congratulate them for this effort to help us to live this year of Saint Joseph meaningfully. Thank you sisters.

In this message I want to share my reflections on what the life of Saint Joseph speaks to us today? We know about Saint Joseph from the scriptures especially from the Gospel of St. Mathew and St. Luke as the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. After Mary was betrothed to Joseph, he found that she was already pregnant, and being "a just man and unwilling to put her to shame" (Mt. 1:19), he decided to divorce her quietly. Why did he want to do it quietly? He knew that if he did so publicly, she could be stoned to death. He didn't want to expose her. What a contradiction with our society which want to expose even innocent persons. During lent we are reflecting on how Jesus was accused falsely. When we blame and accuse others including our community members let's remember the just man - Joseph.

Joseph believed what the angel said about Mary that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He “accepted Mary unconditionally”. After the birth of Jesus, the Angel again comes and





tells him to flee to Egypt with the family and he obeyed. Saint Joseph born in the lineage of King David as written in the genealogical narration of St. Mathew knew the prophets and the law. But Joseph didn't question the plan of God concerning this plight to Egypt. He trusted and believed. Saint Joseph is said to be "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." Again, the angel appears and tells him that Herod had died and to take the family and go back. Let's remember Joseph's faith, trust and obedience when we question God's will in our life and give justification based on what is right in our eyes.

Saint Joseph is an ordinary person. He is not anywhere in the lime light in the bible. The 13 New Testament books written by Paul (the epistles) make no reference to him at all, nor does the Gospel of Mark which was written first. Even in the Gospels of St. Mathew and St. Luke he is never mentioned by name after the above-mentioned instances — although the story of Jesus in the temple includes a reference to "both his parents." We have no clear proof when Joseph died. Possibly he died before Jesus began his public ministry. In this modern world of pomp and show and seeking name and fame for everything what great lessons of simplicity is Saint Joseph teaching us?

St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." when I joined one of the first sayings I learned was 'Love through Labour'. These words were written on the board as well as on the note book of Sr. Josephine, which she used to bring to the class room. Yes, Saint Joseph teaches us to value our work and do it with respect and happiness. We can love everyone and spread the Good News through the work that is entrusted to us.

Let's follow Saint Joseph who with a father's heart is teaching us to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah chp. 6) through our faith, trust, obedience and work.

Sr. Deepa Moonjely OP  
Provincial Superior

## Contents

1. **Provincial's Message** - Sr. Deepa Moonjely OP
2. **Editorial** - Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP
3. **Men of Faith and Trust** - Sr. Anupa Nirot Toppo OP
4. **Joseph obeyed the will of God** - Sr. Reetha Mechery OP
5. **Joseph - A Man of Silence** - Sr. Josmary Mookan OP
6. **Work versus Dignity** - Sr. Jinfy Anthu OP
7. **All that we can offer you is thanks my Lord**  
- Sr. Josephine Kuruthukulangara OP
8. **Do Not Be Afraid** - Sr. Sheena Paul Thelappilly OP
9. **Unfolding the Grace of God**  
- Sr. Mary Augustine Ookken OP
10. **Joseph, A Just Man**  
- Sr. Anney Chummar Maniyamkott OP
11. **Magnificat ... Praise the Lord**  
- Sr. Mary Joseph Urumpunkuzhiyil OP
12. **Joseph the Prudent** - Sr. Jayanthi Tirkey OP
13. **From His Fulness, Received Grace upon Grace**  
- Sr. Shiji Kurian Muprapillil OP
15. **St. Joseph, the Guardian of Virgins**  
- Sr. Rose Mary Kadampattuparambil OP
16. **My Heart's Desire**  
- Sr. Jini Joseph Mazhuvancherry OP
17. **Joseph, the Man who loved but not possessed**  
- Sr. P. Premalatha OP
18. **Know the Dominican Saints - St. Martin De Porres**  
Sr. A Jenet OP
19. **Sentire Cum Ecclesia - Feel with the Church**  
Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP
20. **Learner's Corner - Google Translate**  
Sr. A Jenet OP





## Editorial



The newly declared Year of St. Joseph is a great blessing for the Church. It provides a beacon of hope during a dark time, and an opportunity for people of faith to focus on a just and righteous man who has much to teach us. In his surprise announcement on Dec. 8 — the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron saint of the universal Church — Pope Francis said it was the coronavirus pandemic that encouraged him to write and reflect on St. Joseph, that his strong presence in salvation history accomplished so much so quietly.

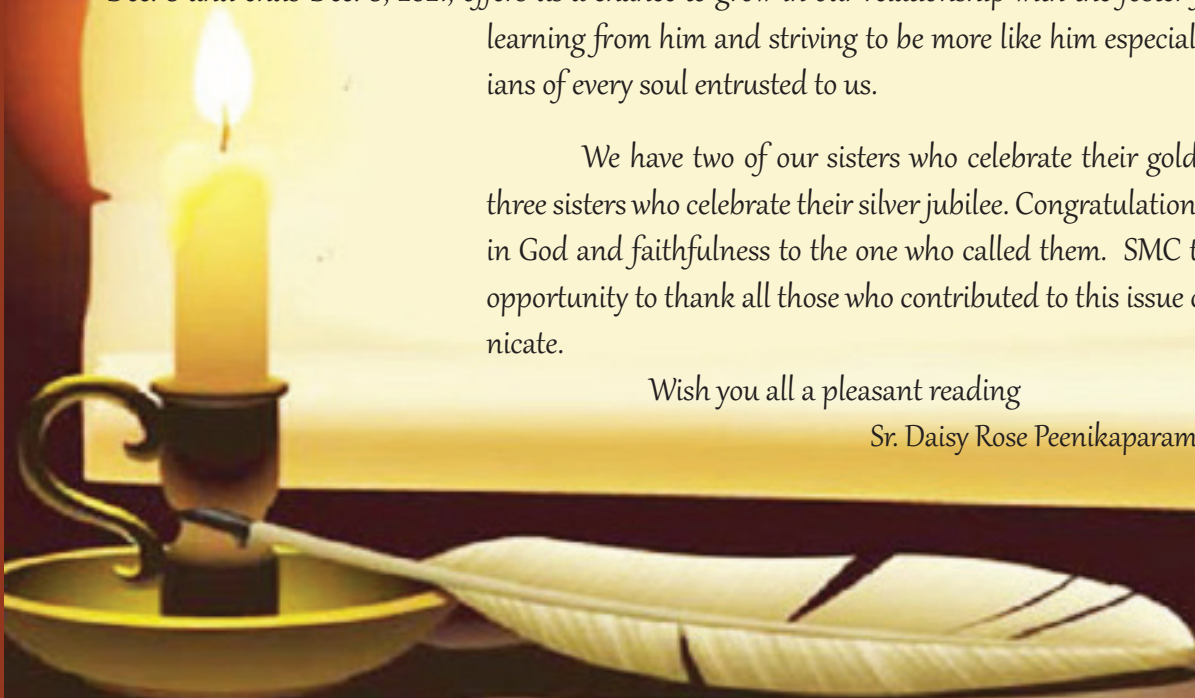
For us St. Joseph is a symbol of Old Testament Joseph. We read in Genesis 41:55 “so when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for food; Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph and do what he tells you”. In the New Testament Joseph was entrusted with growing the food of eternal life, he is the Chaste Husband of Blessed Virgin Mary, Foster Father of Jesus- the Son of God, a man who was diligent and attentive to the prompting of the Spirit of God even during the sleep and responded to it with utmost care and prompt obedience. He is protector of the virgins, protector of the Catholic Church as he once protected Infant Jesus from the powerful hands of the enemy, we see him as a man who contemplated the mystery of Jesus and His Mother in silence as we never hear a word from his mouth but we see only his actions in the Gospels. Saint Joseph left an example to all to earn their bread by work of their hands; he is patron of good death as he died in the hands of Jesus and Mary and wants all of us to die in the hands of Jesus and Mary.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” Pope Francis wrote in his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s heart”), “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” This Year of St. Joseph, which began from Dec. 8 and ends Dec. 8, 2021, offers us a chance to grow in our relationship with the foster father of Jesus, learning from him and striving to be more like him especially to be guardians of every soul entrusted to us.

We have two of our sisters who celebrate their golden jubilee and three sisters who celebrate their silver jubilee. Congratulations for their faith in God and faithfulness to the one who called them. SMC team takes this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this issue of *We Communicate*.

Wish you all a pleasant reading

Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP



## Men of Faith and Trust



The name of New Testament Joseph could not help but recall that of Old Testament Joseph, so often repeated in the history of salvation. The name is built on the name of God, and means "Yahweh increases" or "Yahweh adds." It is given by Rachel at Joseph's birth in grateful appreciation that the Lord had "opened her womb," with the explanation that it means that God has added another son (Gen 30:22-24). Do people with the same name have much in common? We can look at two famous men in the Bible and see their similarities. Joseph of the Old Testament is the Patriarch and New Testament Joseph as mentioned in the genealogy of St. Mathew's gospel is St. Joseph the foster father of Jesus. (Mt 1:16.)

Let us consider few parallels between Joseph of the Old Testament and St. Joseph of the New Testament.

### Father named Jacob:

- First, both of them had a father named Jacob. The biblical reference to the great patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Jacob's son was Joseph. Matthew's gospel, which traces the family tree of Jesus, says that Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary of whom Christ was born.

**Royal Origin:** - The second parallel is that both of them were of royal origin. The first Joseph was a patriarch, following the great line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was the last and perhaps the greatest of the Old Testament patriarchs. St. Joseph also was of royal origin since he was a descendant of King David. St. Joseph would have been eligible for the throne.

### The ability to understand dreams:

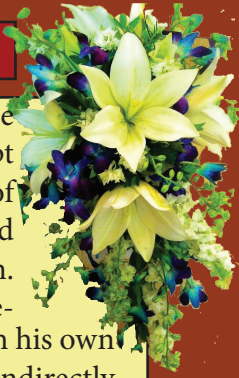
-The ability to understand dreams is their third similarity. In the Old Testament, Joseph gained fame for this ability of interpreting the dreams. While still in prison, he was able to interpret the dreams of the baker and the cupbearer of Pharaoh. Joseph gave Pharaoh the interpretation of his dream, referring to seven fat and skinny cows to the seven prosperous years and seven years of famine in the land. Because of this insight into the future, Pharaoh picked Joseph to be the manager of his house and ruler over all his possessions. The New Testament relates dreams of St. Joseph. Understood and unhesitatingly acted upon as narrated in the gospel. St. Joseph's ability to recognize the divine guidance sent to him in dreams literally saved the Holy Family on several occasions.

### Putting up with the difficulties of their daily life without complaint:

- Both Joseph's suffered and put up with the difficulties of their daily life without complaint. The first Joseph suffered the plot of his brothers who seized him, stripped him and threw him into a well. St. Joseph had to go through sufferings, when Mary was well along in her pregnancy, as members of the House of David; they had to journey to Bethlehem to take part in the census ordered by the Roman rulers. That involved a difficult journey of perhaps 85 miles on a donkey with no advance lodging reservations.

**Both left their homes and went to Egypt:** - The fifth similarity between Joseph and St. Joseph is that both left their homes and went to Egypt. Joseph was sold





into slavery and taken to Egypt. St. Joseph fled to Egypt with his family to escape Herod's wrath. The ruler of the king's house and possessions: -The sixth parallel is that of being the ruler of the king's house and possessions. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, made Joseph ruler and lord over all his possessions in Egypt. St. Joseph, as head of the Holy Family, was ruler over the King of the Universe's home in Nazareth. Jesus, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega, chose Joseph to be the head of the Holy Family, to be the lord, master and ruler over the house.

**Purity and chastity:** -The seventh similarity between the Joseph of the Old Testament and Joseph of the New Testament is their purity and chastity. Joseph was a very strong and handsome man. So Potiphar's wife fell in love with him and tried to seduce him, but Joseph steadfastly refused. In the New Testament, St. Joseph is the virginal husband of Mary. St. Joseph, the most pure and chaste man that God ever created, married the Blessed Mother. They lived a virginal life their entire marriage. The beautiful virtues of purity and chastity are thus exemplified in both Joseph of the Old Testament and St. Joseph New Testament.

**Experienced poverty:** -The eighth parallel is that they both experienced poverty. Joseph of the Old Testament was sold into slavery and owned nothing, and he was unjustly imprisoned for a few years. We are told in the gospels that he was a carpenter, a member of the working class. When he uprooted his family and went to Bethlehem and then to Egypt, he probably took his tools with him so he could continue earning a living, but that is about all he had in terms of material goods. We also know that the Holy Family was poor because at the Presentation they gave two turtle doves, the offering of the poor.

**Both Josephs were responsible for feeding the entire world:** -Both Josephs were responsible for feeding the entire world, which is their ninth similarity. Because of Joseph's advice, Egypt was the only coun-

try in the world that had grain during the famine. The other nations came to Egypt to buy their grain. St. Joseph, as head of the Holy Family, taught Jesus a trade and provided his initial religious instruction. He helped Jesus grow to manhood and become for us the Eucharist, feeding us with his own Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Thus, indirectly Joseph has fed the entire world with the Bread of Life.

**We can go to both Josephs in times of need:** - We can go to both Josephs in times of need. The people of Egypt and the other nations went to Joseph for the grain they needed during the great famine. Because Joseph had such tremendous influence with the Pharaoh, many peoples' petitions were answered. We priests, religious and lay people can go to St. Joseph in our time of need. Whatever difficulties and sufferings we have, we go to Joseph because he has great influence with his Son, the King of the Universe. Keeping this in mind, Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic that has helped us to see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

These are the ten similarities which we could draw for us between Joseph of the Old Testament and St. Joseph, two of the greatest figures in the Bible. Let us recognize the many of the same trials and sorrows we face, and let us follow their example of steadfast love and service of God. They stand ready and able to help us, if we but "go to Joseph."

Sr. Anupa Nirot Toppo OP



## Joseph Obeyed the Will of God



In the light of His Holiness, Pope Francis' apostolic letter "Patris Corde" on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, it is good to look at St. Joseph and his obedience to God to grow in our love and devotion to him, the second patron of our Congregation. (The Rule of Sainville Ch. 9 points out the feast of St. Joseph as one of the days when the Sisters were permitted to receive Holy Communion. Our old Constitutions mention Mary as the Patroness of the Congregation and St. Joseph and St. Dominic as second patrons of the Congregation.)

Through his obedience to God's will, he encourages us how to remain faithful to our religious vow of obedience, at this time when we hear so many criticisms about Authority and Obedience.

**The Scriptures speak very little** about St. Joseph; but the few words spoken of him, tell us much about the kind of man that he was. Something very remarkable in him is his **total surrender to God's will**. By obeying the will of God manifested to Him, 1) through legitimate human authority 2) through the Divine Law and 3) through his dreams, he accomplished the mission entrusted to him as husband to Mary and father to Jesus. He believed in God, trusted in His Word and listened to His Words. He loved God and did what was pleasing to His God and remained in communion with Him.

**Joseph obeyed God's will manifested to him through the legitimate human authority.** "So, all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child." (Lk.2: 3-5) He took the trouble to go to Bethlehem with Mary who was with the child, in obedience to the decree of Caesar Augustus. We know how much he had to struggle to find a place for Mary to give birth to her son Jesus. He is a model for us to obey the civil authority, as long as it remains subject to the divine authority.

**Joseph obeyed God's will revealed to him according to the Divine Law.**

"When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus." (Lk. 2: 21) "When the days were completed for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord..." (Vs. 22-24) Simeon came to the temple, "when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom

of the law in regard to him". (V.27) "When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth." (V.39) Joseph subjected himself to the Mosaic Law and fulfilled all that was required for Mary as well as for Jesus according to the Law.

**Joseph obeyed God's will manifested to Him through his dreams.**

When Mary was found with child, Joseph decided not to expose her to shame, but to divorce her quietly. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, since she is conceived by Holy Spirit. (Cf. Mt. 1: 20). So, Joseph kept Mary with him. "When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going





to search for the child to destroy him.' Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." (Mt. 2: 13-14) Joseph did not hesitate; he got up and took the road to Egypt with



Mary and Jesus. "When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.' He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee." (Mt. 2: 19 – 22) So the Scriptures tell us of four dreams that Joseph had and in each instant, he obeyed what the angel of the Lord told him to do, even though it meant to undertake perilous journeys and to put Mary and the child at great risk. His response was immediate.

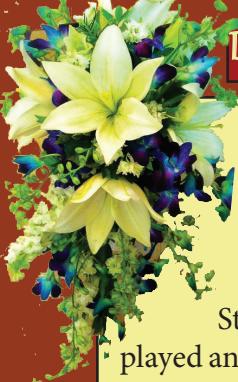
**Joseph did not need an interpretation for his dreams.** In the Bible, God manifests His design, His plan or His will through visions and dreams. The Book of Genesis narrates some of the dreams: Gn. 28: 12-13 (Jacob's ladder); Gn. 37 (dream of Joseph, the son of Jacob); Gn. 40 (Joseph interpreting the dreams of the cupbearer and the chief baker of Pharaoh) and Gn. 41 (Joseph interpreting the pharaoh's dream). In the Book of Daniel chapter 5, we see Daniel interpreting the

writing on the wall for King Belshazzar. These dreams required an interpretation. The meaning was not very clear, or rather was hidden at the beginning. But in the case of Joseph, husband of Mary we see that in all the 4 dreams, **Joseph knew exactly what the message of God was. He knew exactly what God's will was and immediately he obeyed.** Does it mean that Joseph was very much attuned to God's will? Was he someone who always discerned the will of God and obeyed it and that discernment was his habitual way of daily life? I will say that Joseph was someone who was constantly searching for the will of God and that he always lived according to God's will. Sometimes, even if we know what the will of God is, we are not ready to obey it. And **we may spend time questioning ourselves** whether this is really what God wants, how can we be sure of it? **How can I be confirmed that this is what God wants?** Whatever it is, in the case of Joseph we see that he saw very clearly what God wanted Him to do and he immediately obeyed. There is no doubt, no questioning and no clarifications; the response was immediate. **Joseph teaches us what obedience is all about.** He teaches us **to be constantly open to discern the will of God and to surrender to it in faith, trust and love.** He challenges us to be doers of the will of God. He challenges us to live the Word of God. As Dominicans, he calls us **to become the Word of God.**

As we honor St. Joseph in a very special way during this year, let us fix our eyes on him; let us learn from him to obey the will of God at all times and in all circumstances. Joseph had such a deep intimate relationship with his God that he was **in deep communion with God.** Each time that he obeyed God's will, he grew deeper in his communion with God, his wife Mary, his son Jesus and all God's people. Let us be among those who discern God's will habitually and obey it at all cost. Let us be those who obey God's will promptly. May St. Joseph be our model to live our vow of obedience as women religious. May he teach us to remain united to his son Jesus and his spouse Mary and follow their examples in surrendering to God's will.

Sr. Reetha Mechery OP





## Joseph - A Man of Silence



St. Joseph is a great Biblical figure, who played an important role in the salvation History. When we think of St. Joseph, what comes in mind is the song – Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright. God Had filled St. Joseph with entirely unique grace. He is known as a man of silence, a just man, a tender and loving father, faithful protector, a hard working carpenter, the guardian of the good death. He did all his duties silently and in a hidden way. He teaches us that it is possible to love without possessing, without making many disorders, and without many words.

The conception of Mary was a time of confusion and suffering for St. Joseph. He wanted to dispose her quietly. But he accepted the will of God through an Angel in his dream. The angel of the Lord told him “Do not be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. She has conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt, 1:20-22.) He accepted the will of God silently. From that time he takes up the full responsibility of the Holy Family. He takes Mary who was pregnant to Bethlehem to give birth to the baby. All the challenges, difficulties, and rejections of that night, he accepts willingly and silently. After the Birth of the baby Jesus, the shepherds, kings, and the people come to adore the baby Jesus. St. Joseph observes every-

thing with wondering eyes, believing that the New born baby is a divine child. He ponders everything silently in his heart. Again he had to take the Mother and the child quickly to Egypt. He was always ready to accept the will of God with a surrendering attitude. Later on we see Jesus settled in Nazareth. When the boy Jesus was twelve years of age, the parents take him for the Passover feast. On returning, they miss him. After three days when they found him in the temple, Mary asked Jesus ‘Why did you do this to us? Your father and I were searching for you.’ Jesus answered ‘don’t you know that I am in my Father’s business? St. Joseph must have suffered at that time. He was silent and pondered everything in his heart, accepting the will of God. We never hear a word from St. Joseph. We can observe that no spoken word of St. Joseph is preserved for us in the Bible. But his silence and actions speaks loudly to us more than the words. As a boy, Jesus might have observed St. Joseph –his foster Father as a shadow of His Heavenly Father.

In this World of confusion and uncertainties, many Christians respect St. Joseph with love, devotion, and fascination. We need this great man of silence and fidelity, to intercede for us to obtain peace and justice in our sufferings. Let us ask Him to grant us the grace of living with less words and great deeds of faith.

Sr. Josmary Mookan OP







## Work versus Dignity

May 1st is the feast of St. Joseph the worker and it was first established in the 1950s by pope Pious XII. It began to be celebrated as antitheism to the labour culture to the ideology of communism. This Ideology resolved to redefine concept of dignity of work. This feast makes each Chris-

tian to remember that our daily workdays are to be 'sanctified'. All are works or efforts i.e. work of our hands mind and toils are to be offered to God. It doesn't need reorganization by others (like a work of a carpenter). This shows us how St. Joseph was humble to his call. Like him, all are talents are to be offered to the glory of God alone. It is this Godliness or humbleness in our work which gives a dignity to human work. Thus as a worker we become one with God and participate in God's creation. Therefore Catholic church teaches every work from lower to higher, recognized or unrecognized when offered to through the humbleness to God, it dignifies the work. As a creation of God's hand we offer our best to the creator. This is one of the diligent area which can be pursued by common man (every one) and it is a silent path to holiness.

When we observe St. Joseph through scripture he was silent. God has certified him as a man of justice. He was pure, prudent and diligent to participate in his role and to complete the will of God. This has elevated him to the status of being the head of the Holy family. Thus the creation of man and entrusting the work of 'dominion' on the earth has a greater deep meaning in Christianity. It is not misused

or abused or involving in every type of job or going behind the worldly pleasures to the wealth gathering, but a totally different one. Every catholic like St. Joseph asked to be humble instrument in God's hand, doing the work assigned to the glory of God and not for the recognition by others or projecting self but offering the fruits of work to the needy and poor so that we become radiant like star during the second coming of Christ the king. Thus the dignity of work is redefined through the humble example of St. Joseph. St. Joseph pray for us.



Sr. Jinfy Anthu OP



## All that I can offer you is thanks my Lord



June 13th 1971 was a day of joy and happiness in my life; it is my first profession day, as I began my journey as a Dominican Sister of the Presentation of the blessed Virgin. It was indeed a great day of rejoicing though the absence of near and dear ones were felt. But there were many who made it possible and tried to fill the void. There are many who left this world who were part of my life journey. May the merciful Lord grant them eternal joy.

I am filled with gratitude to the Lord who planned and lead my life during this half century as the daughter of Blessed Marie Poussepin in the Dominican Order. Thanks to my parents for the sacrifice they made and the formation they gave especially helping me to grow in faith and love of God. May the Lord grant them the reward of eternal joy in His kingdom.

The Almighty has done great things in my life. Like clay in the hand of the potter He formed and shaped me and used me for His mission through our congregation in our country and outside. He has allowed me to touch many lives through my mission of education, faith formation and pastoral services. The Lord allowed me to serve in the field of formation, animation and administration. Thanks to those who supported me and guided me to fulfil those ministries and answer the needs of the Province in its initial stages.

Thank you, Lord for allowing me to cross this half century of my religious profession, with its ups and downs, joys and pains, strengths and weaknesses. The one who called me knew how to lead on and so I continue to trust in Him alone. Many are the memories, people and events that I treasure as I reflect back. It is impossible to pen them down in paper. I have no regrets. The Lord and Mother Mary accompanied me to overcome the hurdles of my life.

With gratitude I recall the institutions I was called to serve far and near, the parishes that I served and the people who came into my life. I can never forget my experiences in a Hindu management School without any knowledge of each other I was placed to teach and prepare the first batch of SSLC students. This experience paved way for other sisters to continue there and the door is always open for the Dominican Sisters in

SSB International School in Indira Nagar.

Life had not been a bed of roses in these past years but roses with thorns at times. That is part of discipleship. There are moments I recall where I need to let go of my wish for the good of mission in India. Life demanded sacrifice and only through pains, gains come out and bear good fruits. In all these the words of the Lord, "Do not be afraid I am with you". Yes, thank you my Lord and Saviour for walking with me and carrying me at times in my weak moments.



I express my sincere gratitude to my sisters' and brothers' families for their constant love and support in my life journey. May God bless them and protect them. My gratitude goes to my religious family who formed me and helped me to reach this day of my life. My heartfelt thanks to Sr. Marina who has played an important role in my life and I recall with gratitude all the major superiors who trusted me and entrusted me the different mission in different stages of my life. My prayer is that the Lord may give me the health and strength to carry on according to His will



and plan. Thanks to all who shared life with me in communities and ministries.

For all that has been THANKS and for all that is ahead of me lead me on Lord.

Thank you Merci Gracias  
Sr. Josephine Kuruthukulangara OP

## Do not be Afraid



“...An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 1:20).

This was the message St. Joseph received as he was struggling not knowing how, why and what. Yes, Joseph was shattered to know that Mary was with child. He would have felt that he was caught up in a real whirlwind. After prayer and reflection, "being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, he planned to dismiss her quietly" (Mt. 1:19). The Word of God makes it very clear that he is a righteous man. Being righteous he would have perceived that this is something extraordinary, more particularly it is Divine. Hence, he was aware of his unworthiness. In addition to all this, the angel's words gave him the responsibility to take care of her.

As we all know, his life was in turmoil or rather he faced a chain of troubles soon after he accepted the mission given to him. In Mary's life also we see the same. After she answered the angel, "here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Lk.1:38). She renewed this 'pledge' in all the situations and events of her life. So also Joseph re-lived the assurance of the angel amidst all the turmoils of his life. So he said, -When he had to go with Mary to Bethlehem - **do not be afraid**. When they had no place for Mary to give birth to Jesus - **do not be afraid**. When he had to run away from Herod - **do not be afraid**. When they lost Jesus in the temple - **do not be afraid and so on**.

And it enabled him to lean on to God and take one step at a time to reach his goal courageously, fulfil the good work God had predestined for him to do ( cf. Eph. 2:10).



**He was Most silent**- we don't hear him speak a word yet his silence speaks volumes

**Just**- The Bible testifies that he is righteous Saviour of the Saviour- He is given this title because he saved Jesus from the wicked intentions of Herod  
**Total in self denial** - He was willing to even forgo his own identity. He is introduced as “Joseph the husband of Mary” (Mt. 1:16).

Pope Francis has dedicated this year to St. Joseph. It is very much fitting at this time because as in the case of St. Joseph, the world, humanity is perplexed at the moment because of 'Covid 19'. As we go through this difficult time of life, I pray through the intercession of St. Joseph that we may be able to hear the Lord, become convinced of it and implement it in our lives.

When we are in despair - do not be afraid  
Amidst all the trouble - do not be afraid  
Amidst all misunderstandings - do not be afraid  
Amidst all the conflicts - do not be afraid  
Hounded by all difficulties - do not be afraid

..... As we go through this difficult time of life, when we are caught up in whirlwind, not knowing how, why and what may we be able to pray through the intercession.....

"Mary, my mother, Joseph, my father, give me your eyes I beg you that I may be able to meditate, Jesus always, give me your heart and soul that I may understand Jesus and be captured by Jesus, Amen.

Sr. Sheena Paul OP

## Unfolding the Grace of God...



“My Spirit rejoices in my God “ Lk:1:47, the words of Mother Mary resounds in my ears as I celebrate 25 years of my consecrated life. Indeed this year of thanksgiving for the wonders God has done, year of gratitude of God’s amazing love and fidelity. The last 25 years have been a journey, discovering God’s special love and wonder. A jubilee is a time for looking back and looking forward and this is an occasion of grateful remembrance of the past events of rejoicing for the graces received and recognition of God’s faithfulness. As a teenager I set out on this journey not knowing well where it is leading me to, but the Lord always surprises on my way and the Lord has touched me and I have grown.

journey and always showing me the light when I was trembling and protected me under the shadow of His wings. The beauty of religious life is that we are always family by grace of the bonds which hold us together as religious.

I am proud of my congregation specially the spirituality of St. Dominic and the Charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin. When I was placed in Dhulkot mission and I got the opportunity to work with people with different culture. I could learn from them many values especially from the children and it was inspiring. I was motivated by their simplicity, trust, love and generosity. Being with them I really experienced the charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin and it is renewed and is very alive. Marie Pousspin always reminds me to do ordinary things extra ordinary way and be faithful in little things. Also all the different mission experiences in different communities have enabled me to grow in confidence, trust and in my spiritual life. The surrendering faith of Blessed Virgin is very inspiring. I try to repeat the words of her “let it be done to me according to your Word” and this prayer has strengthened me always especially the time, when I found it hard to accept the obedience. I really believe the providence of God and it is not my merit and it is merit of God. When I was weak God made me strong and helped me to come out from my weaknesses.

In my congregation all the sisters have helped me a lot to grow in my identity as disciple of Jesus. I express my gratitude to all the Formaters who have journeyed with me since the beginning and accompanied me during the fundamental stages and maintained their support and love. I also offer my special thanks to my family and my companions who have always walked with me and their inspiration, encouragement and prayers helped me to be faithful to the Lord. God had a way of sending many angels to guide my way and thanking God for many people and children who have been part of my journey in my mission areas. Everything is a grace from God and it does not matter to God whether I deserve it or not, God’s grace flows into my life abundantly. Lord upholds my life, do with me as you will. I need only your sufficient grace and continue to prune me to bear more fruit and to remain faithful to you. I conclude from Eph 3:20 “ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,



I began my journey of my religious life with a message from Isaiah 64:8 “We are the clay, and you are our potter, we are all the work of your hand.” From that day on not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. What I am today it is only God’s grace and 25 years of my journey under the shadow of His wings. When I turn back to my religious life, my journey was comprised of a variety of circumstances, situations and experiences. It was a journey with valleys, mountains, zigzagging paths and curves. In spite of all these the journey was enriching one. God was there to guide and accompany my



according to the power work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through-out all generations , forever and ever. Amen.

Sr. Mary Augustine OP



## *St. Joseph, A Just Man...*

St. Joseph was a man of integrity, a man of justice, a responsible person who relied fully on God, He was not

a wayward person and he believed in doing what is right, at all times. The Gospels do not record any word ever spoken by Joseph, but the silence of Joseph has its own special expression, by that silence we can understand the truth of the Gospel's judgement that he was "a just man" (Mt 1:19).

As we all know the story, Joseph was about to marry a beautiful young girl. Then he learned that she was pregnant. He was shocked. He must have been heartbroken. His life must have appeared to be shattered. Now Jewish Law would come to the aid of a man in this situation. The offending woman would be frustrated, and most probably killed. If there were justifying circumstances and she was lucky, she would be cast out of society, and treated very badly the rest of her life, an outsider, an outcast, forced to beg for food for herself and her child.

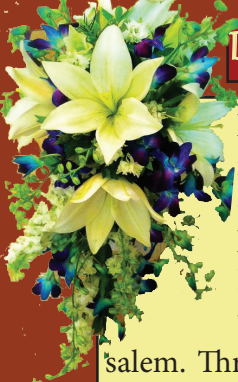
Joseph was struggling, as some people had to have known that Mary was pregnant and that Joseph was not the father. On one side Joseph had the law on his side. Initially, he wanted his engagement to Mary to fall apart because of her conception. He wanted to do it quietly in order to save his and Mary's reputation. However, once he hears the voice, Mt 1:20, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" things change in him and he never looks back from his responsibility of a good husband to Mary and foster father to Jesus. In all these situations Joseph was just and was compassionate. He asked himself, "What would God want me to do?" Then he made the decision to protect Mary, even though at that point in his mind, it appeared that she had offended him. He would send her away where she could be safe. It was after Joseph made the decision to do what God would want him to do, that the angel appeared to him in the dream.



When I reflect on St. Joseph, as a just man, I think of the three dreams of St. Joseph of which in the first, and most important, he was told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. A second dream took place after the birth in Bethlehem. Joseph was told to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt for the wicked King Herod meant to kill Jesus. After Herod died, and while the Holy Family was in Egypt, Joseph had third dream, telling him to return to Palestine, which he did.

The most important information we have about Joseph is not that he was a dreamer; it was that Joseph was a righteous man, a just man. A just person puts his or her relationship with God before all else in life and cares for people as God would care for them. In scriptures, we find someone who is just reflects God's compassion all through their life.

Joseph is convinced fully that it is a work of God. He never waves his responsibility either from making all the arrangements in Bethlehem to find a place for Mary to give birth to the child, or to leave the native



land for Egypt in order to save the child from the clutches of murderer Herod or to bring back the child to the native land after the death of the monster king Herod, or even searching Jesus in the temple during their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Through his complete self-sacrifice, Joseph expressed his generous love for the Mother of God, and gave her a husband's "gift of self." Even though he decided to draw back, not to interfere in the plan of God which was coming to pass in Mary, Joseph obeyed the explicit command of the angel and took Mary into his home, while respecting the fact that she belonged exclusively to God.

Hence St. Joseph's greatness flows from the fact that Joseph was righteous. Joseph was just. Joseph was compassionate. Today we pray to St. Joseph to give us the courage to be righteous. Give us the courage, to be like St. Joseph, to choose the way of the Kingdom of Love. As we journey through Lent let's pray to St. Joseph, to guide us and help us open our hearts to God's plan, that we may be upright and righteous; that we may be men and women after God's will; that we may be able to pray, "Father show me how I fit into this plan of yours. Let God speak to us in our dreams and then get up and do as the angel of the Lord directs us.

Sr. Anney Maniyamkott OP



*Magnificat ... Praise the Lord...*

**"My soul proclaims the greatness of the lord,  
My Spirit rejoices in God My SAVIOUR"**

Yes He is my Lord and Saviour. What Thanks can I render THEE for all the gifts Thou has showered on me. The first and foremost gift is my existence. From the day you created me till this day I have been blessed with many different gifts..... Countless blessings ..... Years gone by ..... What I can offer You is only THANKS.

Jesus called and told me to leave my own place and go to a totally unknown place .... Unknown people.... Unknown language .... Unknown culture.... When I told my parents, my mother's words were " The place is too far.", my father, told that " You are not competent to live there." But without rethinking anything I followed my Saviour trusting in His care and protection. Yes, I always experienced His guiding hand along with his Blessed Mother, even today. In my unworthiness God accepted me as I am with my limitations and drawbacks. Now I feel if I were to go through the formation in India I will never be a Dominican sister of the Presentation. This is one of the gifts He gave me from His abundance. He found something good in me. I have experienced his presence in my good times and bad times, in my wellness and illness, difficulties and problems and every time and every moment, He is there beside me guiding and leading me to the abundant pastures of his love . He allows me to live, experience and spread His love in my little ways and to continue my journey of life. I can say He carried me through on His wings all these years giving me the opportunities to know and



love the people and be a witness wherever He has brought me.

I am grateful to live and experience the reality of Blessed Marie Poussepin where she lived and died. Blessed Marie Poussepin who saw what was good in the eyes of God and lived totally trusting in His Providence left behind for her daughters a memorial inheritance : her love of God and merciful, compassionate look for the neighbours.

I thank the Almighty for the faith I have received through my parents and allowed it to grow in me through various people and in differ-



ent ways. I thank all those who helped me to grow in the love of God, to know and love the Congregation through different stages of my life in one way or another. May God's special blessings be upon each one of you and be filled with His graces. **THANK YOU ..... THANK YOU ..... THANK YOU .....**

Sr Mary Joseph Urumpumkuzhiyil op



## Joseph, the Prudent

Prudence is one of the supreme virtues of a Ruler. The Patriarch Joseph was sold by his brethren into slavery, but through the special grace and providence of God rose to be the Chief Minister of Egyptian Pharaoh, in which high office he displayed such prudence that the king gave him complete charge of his household, with authority to dispense as he pleased the royal property. Now he was the prototype of the other and greater Joseph who also by special grace and providence of God rose from a humble station to be the master of God's own household, with such authority vested in his hands as was never before entrusted to any living creature, to direct, guide and instruct the Child that was God Himself.

The prudence of St. Joseph is his willingness to face the hardships he is about to carry with mission he is entrusted with. Humanly speaking it was not at all an acceptable offer made to him to receive a pregnant woman as his spouse. In the case of St. Joseph he waited for the right moment to discern the will of God and to take a right decision. Prudence is a divine virtue by which one is made capable to give life for the other. It is a divine power by which one is equipped to protect the other. The call of St. Joseph was to be an earthly guardian for Jesus and Mary. We shall try to see how St. Joseph fulfilled this plan of God by being prudent.

1. St. Joseph never acted on impulse. He always reflected before acting. What husband would not

have put away his wife without any delay when he discovered that she was about to give birth to a child that was not his? Not so St. Joseph. He waited, pondered, prayed, and gradually formed the prudent resolve of sending her back in secret to her friends. Even after deciding on this plan as the best, he again waited and commended it to God, turned it over and over in his own mind, prayed still more before proceeding to act. It was this prudence of his, a charitable delay that earned for him the solution of his doubts by an angel's voice.

2. St. Joseph was entrusted to train Jesus. The formation of the character of the divine Child was committed to him. What prudence, what a perfect prudence St. Joseph might have possessed whom God considered as the fit guardian of the Eternal Word! If I were more prudent, God would entrust me greater works to be done for Him.

3. Mary had wonderful confidence in the prudence of her spouse when she arose unhesitatingly at dead of night to fly with him to Egypt, just because he told her he had a dream warning him to do so. But she knew not only how naturally careful and wise he was, but that he had an infused and supernatural prudence that could not be deceived. If I were more prudent, others would trust me more, and listen with greater confidence to my advice or commands.



Prudence is the mother of virtues which depends upon the practical wisdom gained by experience matched with an agile mind to make decisions in the here and now. Each time Joseph knew the will of God, he acted decisively, swiftly and accurately. He acted neither rashly nor timidly, but prudently. Therefore we have a great lesson to learn from the silent master to be prudent before we speak and act. May our prudence help each other to support, guide and lead others to the safe pastures of His infinite love.

Sr. Jayanthi Tirkey OP



### *From His Fullness, Received Grace upon Grace*

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven....” (Ecclesiastes - 3: 1). The time has come for me to acknowledge the caring hand of God which has guided me to accomplish 25 Silver Years of Religious Life. It has been His amazing grace and the most fulfilling journey with the Lord which helped me to reach this level. Like a sunflower I always turned towards God, the Sun, which enveloped me with His warmth of Love and Mercy. I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude in thanking God for His protection and constant companionship all throughout Religious Life in the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation. God has enabled me to experience His power to comprehend with all the Saints what is the length and breadth, and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that I may be filled with all the fullness of God. Thank you, Lord, for granting me the zeal and the burning desire to serve You and Your People with a manifold gift of opportunities.

“Speak to Him often, speak about Him often.” as mentioned in the General Rules was the source of inspiration for me received during the Religious Formation and this has strengthened and sustained me all throughout these past 25 years. Thus, the strong bond with my Lord Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Dominic and Blessed Marie Poussepin helped me encounter the face of Jesus in my prayer and be united to Him in my life and lead a meaningful committed life, to grow in faith and trust in the providence of God and share the ray of hope for the hopeless and the neediest.

“Keep the presence of God in all your actions.” During these 25 years, God gave me the opportunity to work in the remote villages as well as



at the heart of the cities. I was delighted to give myself generously in the service of God and His people. I am grateful to my Sisters who cared for me and supported me in all my endeavours. Now at the completion of 25 years I feel grateful to the Lord for calling me and sanctifying me and making me an instrument to participate in His mission.

I thank God for the many people who have been part of my journey. I bring to the altar of the Lord my Parents, brothers and sister, teachers, friends and my formaters and all those who became a source of inspiration and helped me in my Religious Life. I owe much to my first community in Dalmadi, Gumla Diocese, visiting the families, the sick and the poor in their houses as well as in the field I could share with them the love, mercy and compassion of God for his people and these memories are still very vivid in me. The past years of life in the Congregation has helped me to share the Charism of Congregation as I involved in Social Work, Education Ministry, Pastoral Work and School Counselling to be with





the people who were less privileged in the society. It was an eye opener for me to see the tremendous capacities of the illiterate women in their hard work and courage to respond to the various challenges that they experience in their family and society. At present I am very content to work with the most marginalized, especially for the differently able people in their home-based rehabilitation, inclusive education and livelihood activities. I feel the great joy for witnessing their growth and their improvement in the family and society. I remember in gratitude the opportunity I had received to participate in the CEMP, Sainville, France and to understand deeply the origin and Charism of our Congregation, which created deep impressions and nostalgic feelings in me to re-dedicate and renew myself.

St John Paul II wrote that Religious are first and foremost called to be the icon of the transfigured Christ. The transfiguration here is the result of the deep and personal union with Christ and at the

same time the result of the suffering with Christ. Jesus alludes to this in the farewell discourse: remain in my love, the love that is born on the cross, and then we shall bear fruit. Religious life may change its expressions, shapes and sizes. We should

not fear these changes. The only thing we should fear is the failure to bear the wounds of the suffering Servant and to be the icon of the transfigured Christ for our Church and for our world.

I am indebted to God for the gift of courage He has given me to live the transfigured Christ in my community and mission, spreading the fragrance of His Love, Peace and hope. As I continue my journey, I fully rely upon Him who has called me and strengthened me to be faithful in my commitment. May He continue to accompany me in my journey of Religious Life for the service of God and His people.

Sr. Shiji Kurian OP

## St. Joseph, the Guardian of Virgins



When I started preparation for final vows, I asked my Father to pray for me in a special way during this time. Then what he told me actually surprised me! He told me, “The day you left home to join the convent, I have entrusted you

to St. Joseph, the guardian of virgins. He will take care of you.” It was with such confidence in the power of the intercession of St. Joseph that he assured me that I am in safe hands.

Actually it was only then that I started to think about Joseph and what it meant for him to be the husband of Mary. As any Jewish young man he must have been looking forward to a happy married life with his betrothed, the young Mary of Nazareth. It was at this moment that Mary surprises him with the news that she is already pregnant. What a shocking news for the young man who was expecting a normal life with Mary. Joseph would have rather put Mary away quietly. If she loved someone else He did not want to break up their relationship even though it broke his heart. He loved her very much, loved her enough to sacrifice his desire for her, to make her his own.

What changed all his plans when the angel told

him in the dream, “Do not be afraid.... For St. Joseph, it was a call from God to consecrate his whole life to God alone, his body soul and his mind, everything for a unique mission that was to be entrusted to him. To give up all his dreams and plans to be a faithful guardian to the Son of God and His Virgin Mother.

It certainly must have been a hard thing to ac-





cept and say yes to this mysterious Divine plan. Scripture says, "He was a just man". He was a man of faith, who was seeking to do the will of God in all that he did. So he accepted. His 'yes' was an unconditional one. He became a chaste and devoted husband to Mary and a loving and caring father to her son. He was the caretaker of the two pure souls. In contemplating the life of St. Joseph, we find a man whose love was undivided, at each and every trial he actively sought to do the will of God. An object that is pure is undivided and unsullied. Likewise St. Joseph was a pure spirit, one that was undivided: he lived solely to accomplish the will of God.

Each one of us by responding to God's invitation to be with Him and to follow him, have set apart our life, saying no to our dreams and plans in

order to make God's plan ours. We have vowed to live chaste and pure life. We are called to this level of purity.

There are moments we face temptations to bypass our chosen way of life. By entrusting our life to St. Joseph, the guardian of virgins, with all its temptations and struggles we can rest assured that he will keep guard over us that we may never fail.

Dear St. Joseph, guardian of all the virgin souls, protect all the consecrated men and women, safeguard them and keep them faithful to the call that they have received. As you took good care of Mary and Jesus help them to count on your protection and to turn to you in all their struggles. Amen

Sr. Rose Mary Kadampattuparambil OP



**My Heart's Desire**

This is thanks giving time...  
For all the years and months and days  
From my birth to this day of existence  
More so for the last 25 years...

Over the falls and rolls and hiccups...  
Times of grace, times of misses  
Times of blessings upon blessings  
Words fall short express heart's feelings.

My heart throbs with songs of gladness  
As I proclaim the Lord's awesome deeds  
Ever by the side, holding me tight  
Lest my sinful self may astray.

At times were low at times high  
My pride hurt and inflated, but He  
The crucified one taught me lesson  
To be humble is to be hurt and pained.

Many occasions were opportunities  
of knowing self, others and God  
The churning and yearnings of life  
Taught me to cling to Him and none other.

The Word and Food  
Twin pillars of my life  
Sure guarantee to fall on  
Let what my faith or trust be.



I saw the mighty hand of God  
Making the crooked lines straight  
My life is the testimony of His mercy  
I am His and He is mine forever

Leaving Mother Mary and Joseph  
Only leaves void in my life  
May 1st Joseph's day has blessed  
My jubilee day as His gift.

Next jubilee reckoning on the horizon  
I continue my journey  
Ever holding His hands  
My jubilee wish after all

Sr. Jini Joseph Mazhuvancherry OP





## Joseph, the Man who Loved but not possessed (Son and Wife)

“Love gives nothing but itself, and takes nothing but from itself. Love does not possess,

nor would it be possessed” says Khalil Gibran. In the world of today love has become an addiction. When we fall in love our mind and heart becomes addicted to the person we love. We might have surely heard how the young boys and girls, those who are in love, how they long to be with each other. There are many recorded as well as unrecorded cases of love failures causing the death of the either of the partner. Can we name it as pure love..... possession.....or..... addiction? Just like the addicts the brain just gets activated like the person gets addicted to the drugs. So when we talk of love is it a possession .... or pure Love? We get the answer for this question when we look to the life of St. Joseph.

Pope Francis has announced and dedicated this year to the care of St. Joseph the foster father of Jesus who was fully human and fully divine. A human father who cared and formed Jesus to fulfill the mission of his heavenly Father surely will care and form us to follow the way and trod the path walked by our master Jesus. Pope Francis is sure that during this time of pandemic the Life of St. Joseph will inspire us to have faith and hope to begin each day anew with the new enthusiasm and energy.

Let us travel into the life of St. Joseph and see how he loved Mary and Jesus but never possessed them. He was not addicted to them. That doesn't mean he didn't care or love them but St. Joseph surely loved his wife Mary and Son Jesus.

If you love a flower, don't pick it up. Because, if you pick it up, it dies and it ceases to be

what you love. So if you love a flower, let it be. Love is not about possession. Love is about appreciation.” — Osho

This was very true in the life of St. Joseph. He admired Mary and the divinity of his Son Jesus. He allowed them to be who they are never forced them to be someone whom he wanted them to be. This aspect we see in the life of St. Joseph when Jesus was lost in the temple (Lk 2:47-50) St. Joseph just stands appreciating the knowledge and love of Jesus to fulfill the mission of his heavenly father. When



we love something a lot of the time our response becomes “how do I keep this person or a thing with me permanently?” we don't give room or space to move we keep in a secret place where no one sees and protect from anything that takes away from us. That is called as

possession or we can call it as addiction. St. Joseph gave his wife Mary as mother to the whole humanity and his Son Jesus to all of us as saviour and Lord. His Love entails trust, spaciousness and faith.

- **Trust:** - St. Joseph trusted Mary and Jesus. He never had a second thought on them. That was his trust. When in a dream angel tells him to take Mary as his wife who was pregnant he never had a second thought. He completely trusted God and Mary.

- **Spaciousness:** - There was a lot of space in the relationship between Joseph and Mary and Joseph and Jesus. They allowed each other to be whom and where they are and St. Joseph as the head

of the family gave a lot of space to Mary and Jesus. There were no boundaries therefore Mary and Jesus grew in healthy and flourishing relationships that helped them to be proactive to the needs of the time.

• **Faith:** - St. Joseph had a strong faith in God. His faith never doubted nor questioned just followed the commands of God in love.

With these Trinitarian qualities St. Joseph, Mary and Jesus they relinquished their relationship between each other. They knew what it means to BE love, rather than simply being IN it.

By the example of St. Joseph let us choose love over the possession and relinquish control and simply focus on being the absolute BEST version of you. May St. Joseph the just man, tireless worker and upright guardian may always guard and guide each one of us to do ordinary things with extraordinary love of Jesus. Pope Francis says “ do not lose hope; St. Joseph also experienced moments of difficulty, but he never lost faith and was able to overcome them, in the certainty that God never abandon us. Let us be infected by the trust, Spaciousness and faith of St. Joseph so that we may carry Jesus to others by our lives

Sr . Premalatha P



## Know the Dominican Saints



### St. Martin De Porres

1. When and where was Martin Born?
2. Name the objects we see normally in the picture of Martin?
3. Martin professed religious vows as a Dominican lay brother – true or false?
4. Mention any two miracles performed by Martin while he was alive?
5. What service did Martin do after his religious profession?
6. What is St Martin de Porres the patron saint of?
7. Who were martin's parents? Where are they from?
8. Martin was well known for what?
9. "I am only a poor mulatto, sell me." When did Martin say this?
10. What was the profession of Martin?
11. When does the Church celebrate the feast of St. Martin?
12. Name the Dominican Saint from Lima who was Martin's friend?
13. Why did Martin's father abandon the family?
14. When was Martin canonized?
15. Who canonized him?



Kindly send the answers on or before 15th of May, 2021



## Quiz on Mother Saint Pierre

Sr. Anney Chummar Maniyamott OP	---30
Sr. A. Mary Jayanthi	-----30
Sr. Laly Lillydasan	-----28
Sr. Punam Lakra	-----25
Sr. Jacline Dhanwar	-----23

- 28-30 – You are an Excellent Historian of the Congregation
- 20-27 – You are a passionate lover of the Congregation
- 11-19 – You are a novice in the Congregation
- 1-10 – You are an aspirant in the Congregation.



# COLLOQUIUMS ON THE PERSON OF DOMINIC




Rome, 20 April, 2021.

Eighth Centenary of the Dies Natalis of St. Dominic  
325th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation

Colloquiums on the person of Dominic de Guzman

Dear Sisters:

The Lord gives us an opportunity this year, to live two significant events: the eighth centenary of the birth to heaven (Dies Natalis) of St. Dominic and 325 years of foundation of our Congregation, reasons for which we express our gratitude to God. We want to take advantage of this occasion, to deepen our knowledge on the life, inspiration and zeal that motivated St. Dominic to respond, with originality, to the needs of the Church of his time and Marie Poussepin who knew how to begin and shape the foundation of her community. With this intention, the commission for Social Means of Communications is preparing three virtual meetings for the Congregation, in this Jubilee Year.

These are the dates and the time:

- May 18, 2021: Sr. Anne Lécu, OP, Province of France
- June 26, 2021: Prof. Juan David Ospina, University of Manizales
- July 31, 2021: Fr. Gerard F. Timoner III, OP, Master of the Order

Time: 15:00 (3.00 pm) Central Europe, with a maximum duration of 90 minutes.

The meetings will be translated into the three languages of the Congregation: French, English, and Spanish, to enable many communities and sisters to participate.

**Kindly Register as early as possible.** (This is part of Sr. Maria Escayola's letter)

Centre Cum Ecclesia.....Feel with the Church

The Heart of a Father

One contemporary reality that, for whatever reasons, I don't often hear being seriously addressed and acted on in the Church is the increasing number of young men who, essentially, grow up, either, completely without earthly fathers and positive male "father figures" in their lives, or, with mostly very damaging, painful experiences from their earthly fathers. St. Joseph could be such a great and healing help to so many "fatherless" and/or deeply "father-damaged" young men and some not-so-young men too, but how can they be helped and healed by him if they don't know him? I rarely hear the painful realities of these men being seriously addressed, either in homilies, or in articles. Once in a while I hear one or two sentences briefly acknowledging that some people do not have the happiest experiences with their earthly fathers, and then, it's on to the next point.

There are so many men, and a great many women, out in the world, and within the Church, too, who are hurt in silence over what they have known of their earthly fathers, and they need to know that God the Father loves them so much, and that St. Joseph can also show them what loving earthly fatherhood means and what it looks

like. I pray that the Church and around the world, will make a much stronger, and much more conscious effort to reach out to these hurting men and women. The need is very real.



The 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal church was celebrated on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on 8th Dec. 2020.

In honour of that anniversary, Pope Francis declared this liturgical year to be dedicated



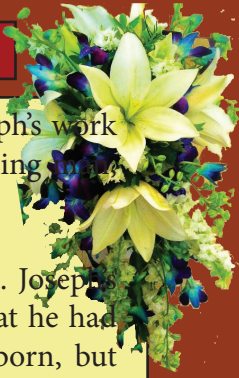
to St. Joseph through his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"). What a gift to the universal Catholic Church to have a year dedicated to the fatherhood of St. Joseph!

In Pope Francis' apostolic letter, he expounds upon the qualities of St. Joseph's fatherhood and how his fatherhood was an icon of God, the Father's heart for us, his children. During this Year of St. Joseph, may our hearts be led to reflect upon the Father through the fatherhood of St. Joseph.

**St. Joseph is a beloved father.** St. Joseph placed himself at the service of his vocation as husband and father. "He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home" (PC, 1).

**St. Joseph is a tender and loving father.** Through St. Joseph's fatherhood, Jesus saw the tender love of God. Joseph taught him how to walk and offered him his loving embrace when he fell. Joseph teaches us to look tenderly upon our falls, weaknesses, and poverties. "The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us" (PC, 2).

**St. Joseph is an obedient father.** In every message from the Father, St. Joseph did what was asked of him. "In



every situation, Joseph declared his own 'fiat', like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane" (PC, 3).

**St. Joseph is an accepting father.** Joseph trusted in the angel's words to him and lovingly accepted Jesus as his own son. He provided a protective home for Mary and Jesus and accepted his call to be a husband to Mary and a father to the Son of God, even when he believed himself unworthy to do so. "Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak" (PC, 4).

**St. Joseph is a creatively courageous father.** God entrusted the Holy Family to Joseph and worked through his creative courage to guide and protect the Holy Family. "Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world" (PC, 5).

**St. Joseph is a working father.** Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation. Joseph's work as a carpenter provided a means for the Holy Family to thrive and to remain hidden in Bethlehem. Jo-

seph taught this work to Jesus. "St. Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming, did not disdain work" (PC, 6).

**St. Joseph is a father in the shadows.** St. Joseph's fatherhood was a hidden fatherhood that he had to learn how to live. "Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person" (PC, 7).

At the conclusion of the apostolic letter, Pope Francis echoes the words of Pope St. John Paul II's teaching on the spousal meaning of the body – when a man or a woman makes a fruitful gift of self, they fulfil the very meaning of their being and existence – when he writes of St. Joseph's giving the gift of self to Mary and Jesus. "Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift... Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is a fruit of mature sacrifice" (PC, 7).

During this year of St. Joseph, may he guide your heart to live a life of fruitful self-giving of a father!

Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP



## Learnering Corner



### Google Translate

Google Translate is an extremely useful tool to translate words and sentences from one language to another. We can use it in many ways. You will see in the following, how to translate or type language (any language) using Google Translate.

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2. Copy the text that you want translated. You can copy text from any source, including documents and other websites. You can also type the text in ...
3. Paste or type the text you want translated into the left field on the Google Translate page.
4. Copy and paste it in your word document

How to type vernacular language using Google Translate?

1. Go to Google Translate
2. Click the language to translate from.
3. Type in English what you want to type (eg. Kai se hei? It will come in Hindi ) and copy, paste it in your word Document.

## Invitation

In August we want to put out a Jubilee Issue of 'We Communicate'. Golden chance for all those who wish to write about the Jubilee of our foundation in India or some memories, appreciations or feelings of gratitude.... please send me your articles by July 10th the latest. Thank you.

Please visit the Congregation and Province web page

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[www.presentationopindia.org](http://www.presentationopindia.org) - website of the Province of India.

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Published by Sr. Deepa Mooljey O.P., Provincial Superior, Dominican Sisters of the Presentation,  
80 Feet Road, Indiranagar P.O. Bangalore – 560038, Karnataka, INDIA