

A nighttime photograph of the Washington State Capitol building in Olympia, Washington. The building is illuminated with warm lights, and its large dome is a prominent feature. In the foreground, the Washington Monument is visible, also illuminated. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is a classic cityscape at night.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Presentation for Pope Francis and the Year of St. Joseph from
December 8th 2020 to December 8th 2021

Bishop Joseph Tyson, Diocese of Yakima

PATRIS CORDE: YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

- December 8th – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the date that this Year of St. Joseph starts and ends.
- Note! Pope Francis did not select the Feast of Saint Joseph to start the year.
- Immaculate Conception: The Feast that reminds us that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin.
- Gospel is Luke 1:26-38. The annunciation. “Hail Mary full of grace...”
- Jesus and Mary were conceived without original sin. John was born without original sin. John leapt in his mother’s womb and therefore was “baptized.”





PATRIS CORDE: YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

- Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all”





PATRI CORDE: YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

- 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. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.





WHY A YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH?

- “Go to Joseph” became a kind of prayer.
- These words “Go to Joseph” were spoken by Pharaoh and they referred to Joseph in the Old Testament who was sold into slavery while in Egypt.
- Joseph of the Old Testament then becomes the Pharaoh’s prime minister. His brothers come to Egypt in a time of famine.
- Patron of the Church
- Patron of the Diocese
- Words of Old Testament Joseph on the shield of the diocesan crosier: “Go to Joseph” (Genesis 41:55)



ST. JOSEPH: 150TH ANNIVERSARY AS PATRON OF THE CHURCH

- The full phrase of Pharaoh: “Go to Joseph; what he says do!” That is what Pharaoh says.
- Because Saint Joseph takes on responsibility for the child, Jesus, a child not of his own making he is a symbol of faithful responsibility
- Pope Francis threads this sense of responsibility over to the many essential workers during this COVID19 crisis.
- At the pastoral center we take responsibility for many things not of our own making
- That second part is what makes him a patron for us at the pastoral center.





SAINT AUGUSTINE:

- Actual Sin
- Original Sin
- G.K. Chesterton: “We are all in the same boat and we are all seasick.”
- We live in a fallen world.
- Saint Joseph protects Jesus in a fallen world





CHRISTMAS EVENT: LIGHT AND DARKNESS

- The Christmas event takes place at a time of strife and violence.
- Saint Joseph never speaks. No verse in the Bible is his. He listens.
- Listens to dreams: He takes the child as his own. He does not expose Mary to the law. He follows the command to name him Jesus.
- In the Old Testament the “naming” establishes a relationship.
- He names him Jesus because Jesus saves his people from their sins.
- Christmas relationship: Salvation



CHRISTMAS: LIGHT AND DARKNESS

- Census: Taking a count for taxation, including taxation for military
- Dream to take the child and flee into Egypt to escape King Herod





WHO IS SAINT JOSEPH?

- A Beloved Father
- A Tender and Loving Father
- An Obedient Father
- An Accepting Father
- A Courageously Creative Father
- A Working Father
- A Father in the Shadows





SAINT JOSEPH: A BELOVED FATHER

- Saint John Chrysostom notes that Saint Joseph places himself “at the service of the entire plan of salvation”
- “Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people.” – Pope Francis in *Patris Corde*






SAINT JOSEPH: A TENDER AND LOVING FATHER

- In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” (*Ps* 103:13). (Pope Francis citation) CP)
- The history of salvation is worked out “in hope against hope” (*Rom* 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty.”





SAINT JOSEPH: A TENDER AND LOVING FATHER

- 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. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. *Rev* 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).



SAINT JOSEPH: AN OBEDIENT FATHER

- In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (*Mt* 1:20-21). Joseph’s response was immediate: “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (*Mt* 1:24). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.





SAINT JOSEPH: AN OBEDIENT FATHER

- In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him” (*Mt 2:13*). Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved: “He got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod” (*Mt 2:14-15*).





SAINT JOSEPH: AN OBEDIENT FATHER

- In Egypt, Joseph awaited with patient trust the angel's notice that he could safely return home. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise, take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel (cf. *Mt 2:19-20*). Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. "He got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel" (*Mt 2:21*).





SAINT JOSEPH: AN OBEDIENT FATHER

- During the return journey, “when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After being warned in a dream” – now for the fourth time – “he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth” (*Mt 2:22-23*).





DREAMS

- Protection of the Young – Story of St. Joseph
- Protection of the Young – Story of St. Francis and the Bishop





SAINT JOSEPH: AN ACCEPTING FATHER

- “Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.”





SAINT JOSEPH: AN ACCEPTING FATHER

- “The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: ‘Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?’ (*Job 2:10*).”





SAINT JOSEPH: AN ACCEPTING FATHER

- Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows. Thus, the Apostle Paul can say: “We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God” (*Rom 8:28*). To which Saint Augustine adds, “even that which is called evil (*etiam illud quod malum dicitur*)”. In this greater perspective, faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad.





SAINT JOSEPH: A COURAGEOUSLY CREATIVE FATHER

- As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. *Lk* 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. *Mt* 2:13-14).





SAINT JOSEPH: A COURAGEOUSLY CREATIVE FATHER

- The Gospel does not tell us how long Mary, Joseph and the child remained in Egypt. Yet they certainly needed to eat, to find a home and employment. It does not take much imagination to fill in those details. The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.





SAINT JOSEPH: A COURAGEOUSLY CREATIVE FATHER

- A superficial reading of these stories can often give the impression that the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the “good news” of the Gospel consists in showing that, for all the arrogance and violence of worldly powers, God always finds a way to carry out his saving plan. So too, our lives may at times seem to be at the mercy of the powerful, but the Gospel shows us what counts. God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence.
- If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves.

SAINT JOSEPH: A WORKING FATHER



- Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour.
- In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.





SAINT JOSEPH: A WORKING FATHER

- **Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new “normal” from which no one is excluded. Saint Joseph’s work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work.**





SAINT JOSEPH: A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS

- 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.
- Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers.





SAINT JOSEPH: A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS

- **Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.**





SAINT JOSEPH: A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS

- Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.





SAINT JOSEPH: PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

- “Earlier last week I had a patient lean into her computer’s camera and whisper to me that she appreciates what the pandemic is doing for her: She had been living through the final stages of cancer for a while, only now her friends are more able to relate to her uncertainties and that empathy is balm.” (B.J. Miller, Hospice Nurse in “What Is Death?” Sunday December 20th 2020, New York Times.)





SAINT JOSEPH: PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

- “What is it you hold dear? Who are you or who do you wish to be? ... Death is a force that shows you what you love and urges you to revel in that love while the clock ticks. Reveling in love is one sure way to see through and beyond yourself to the wider world where immortality lives.

