

# **Fatherhood Is From God**

## **and Must Take Once Again Its Rightful Place Among Men**

**All fatherhood is blest in me whom the Eternal Father chose as His representative on earth, the Virgin-Father of His own Divine Son. Through me the Heavenly Father has blessed all fatherhood, and through me He continues and will continue to do so till the end of time.**

**My spiritual fatherhood extends to all God's children, and together with my Virgin Spouse I watch over them with great love and solicitude.**

**Fathers must come to me, small one, to learn obedience to authority: to the Church always, as the mouthpiece of God, to the laws of the country in which they live, insofar as these do not go against God and their neighbor. Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world.**

**Let fathers also imitate my great purity of life and the deep respect I held for my Immaculate Spouse. Let them be an example to their children and fellowmen, never willfully doing anything that would cause scandal among God's people.**

**Fatherhood is from God, and it must take once again its rightful place among men.** (Words of St. Joseph to Sr. Mildred Neuzil.)

(Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, OH, Pg. 27.)

These words were spoken on March 18, 1958 in the aftermath of World War II, which had thrust many women into the workplace and into positions of breadwinners for their families as their husbands had been killed or severely wounded in body or mind in the War. The Civil Rights Movement, begun in 1954, enhanced the women's rights movement begun years earlier, which broke off into a radical feminist movement in the 1960's. The 60's also saw the rise of the drug and hippie counterculture. Men were increasingly demoralized as some radical feminists, in an effort to overthrow what they saw as an oppressive patriarchal system, sought to eliminate the male sex and the role of fatherhood altogether. History has a way of swinging between extremes before regaining its balance. St. Joseph stands strong as a revitalizing force of balance for men who, like himself, must mirror to their families the Fatherhood of a loving God, provider, protector and respecter of women. After his words noted above, St. Joseph showed Sister his most pure heart, amidst flames and crowned with a pure white lily, lying on a cross. He said his heart was so pleasing to Him Who made it, and that the cross was the cross of the passion, painfully present to him. He bid souls come to him to learn true union with the Divine Will. The next day, his feast day, St. Joseph asked for a day set aside to honor his fatherhood, in which is honored all fatherhood, as well as his spiritual fatherhood over all of us.

**The privilege of being chosen by God to be the virgin-Father of His Son was mine alone, and no honor, excluding that bestowed upon my Holy Spouse, was ever, or will ever, be as sublime or as high as this. The Holy Trinity desires thus to honor me that in my unique fatherhood all fatherhood might be blessed.**

**Dear child, I was king in the little home of Nazareth, for I sheltered within it the Prince of Peace and the Queen of Heaven. To me they looked for protection and sustenance, and I did not fail them. I received from them the deepest love and reverence, for in me they saw Him Whose place I took over them. So the head of the family must be loved, obeyed, and respected, and in return be a true father and protector to those under his care.**

**In honoring in a special way my fatherhood, you also honor Jesus and Mary. The Divine Trinity has placed into our keeping the peace of the world. The imitation of the Holy Family, my child, of the virtues we practiced in our little home at Nazareth is the way for all souls to that peace which comes from God alone and which none other can give. (Diary, Pgs. 28-29.)**

Sister then had a most magnificent vision of St. Joseph in ecstasy, his hands in a position similar to the priest's at Mass. He had a youthful appearance combined with rare maturity and great strength. His pure heart was visible and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered over his head. Angels on his right and left held small pillows, one with a crown, the other with a scepter. Then Sister heard these words. **"Thus should he be honored whom the King desires to honor."** (Diary, Pg. 30.)

On March 30, 1958, St. Joseph further explained the First Wednesday devotion, similar to those of the First Saturday and of the First Friday, forming a devotion to the three hearts of the Holy Family, the trinity on earth, which has the Heart of Jesus at its center just as it is in the Holy Trinity. St. Joseph declared:

**I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time and each time I held Him in my arms. Those who honor me in this way will be consoled by my presence at their death, and I myself will conduct them safely into the presence of Jesus and Mary. (Diary, Pgs. 31-32.)**

We recall the October 1956 locution Sister had with St. Joseph in which he speaks of his exceptional role as Virgin-Father of Jesus, of his unique privilege among men and his share in the work of redemption.

It is true, my daughter, that *immediately* after my conception, I was, through the future merits of Jesus and because of my exceptional role of future Virgin-Father, cleansed from the stain of original sin. I was from that moment confirmed in grace and never had the slightest stain on my soul. This is my unique privilege among men.

My pure heart also was from the first moment of existence inflamed with love for God. *Immediately*, at the moment when my soul was cleansed from original sin, grace was infused into it in such abundance that, excluding my holy spouse, I surpassed the holiness of the highest angel in the angelic choir.

My heart suffered with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Mine was a silent suffering, for it was my special vocation to hide and shield, as long as God willed, the Virgin Mother and Son from the malice and hatred of men. The most painful of my sorrows was that I knew beforehand of their passion, yet would not be there to console them. Their future suffering was ever present to me and became my daily cross. I became, in union with my holy spouse, co-redemptor of the human race. Through compassion for the *sufferings of Jesus and Mary* I co-operated, *as no other*, in the salvation of the world. (Diary, Pg. 13.)

St. Joseph, often called the most hidden of saints, has great power in heaven. Our Lady told Venerable Mary of Agreda:

The children of the world are ignorant regarding the privileges and rights which the Most High has conferred on my holy spouse, and the power of his intercession with the Divine Majesty and me. But I assure you, my daughter, that in Heaven he is most intimate with the Lord, and has great power to avert the punishment of Divine justice from sinners. In all trials seek his intercession, because the Heavenly Father will grant whatever my spouse asks. On the Day of Judgment, the condemned will weep bitterly for not having realized how powerful and efficacious a means of salvation they might have had in the intercession of St. Joseph, and for not having done their utmost to gain the friendship of the Eternal Judge. (Favorite Prayers to St. Joseph, Tan Books, Pg. 14.)

[St. Teresa of Avila said:] I took for my patron and lord the glorious St. Joseph, and recommended myself earnestly to him. I saw clearly that both out of this my present trouble, and out of others of greater importance, relating to my honor and the loss of my soul, this my father and lord delivered me, and rendered me greater services than I knew how to ask for. I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything which he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favors which God has given me through this blessed Saint; the dangers from which he has delivered me, both of body and soul. ... Our Lord would have us understand that as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth—for St. Joseph, bearing the title of father and being His guardian, could command Him—so now in Heaven Our Lord grants all his petitions. I have asked others to recommend themselves to St. Joseph, and they, too, know the same thing by experience. (Favorite Prayers..., Pgs. 4 & 6, quoting her autobiography, VI,9.)

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