



SAINT JOSEPH



The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a just man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God "justifying" someone, it means that God, the all-holy or "righteous" One, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God's own holiness, and hence it is really right for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was "just," the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph's manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this "quietly" because he was "a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame" (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH



**Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,
Custodian of the Holy Family
be our Father, protector and guide,
candle for our families and our homes.**

**St. Joseph, foster father of our Savior,
guardian of the Blessed Virgin,
head of the Holy Family,
Intercede for our homes.**

**Beloved and lovable patriarch, Saint Joseph,
we ask you, that we be our home cradle of peace and
harmony, where resides your son Jesus
take care of our home,
with the same care that you did with the Holy Family.**

**God save us from the Herod's
who seeks to destroy marriage and the family.
Today we are relentless attack and
cornered, we struggle in form and strengthen,
as marriage and family in the beautiful love.**

**May we make our voices heard,
in the global world and to resound the Gospel of marriage,
defending the rights of the family.
Saint Joseph, patron of the Domestic Church,
pray for us.
Amen.**