

ST. JOSEPH AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

A FATHER'S HEART

God looks on the heart ..., and in Saint Joseph He recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day.

THE LORD'S DESIRES

The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes.

GREATLY NEEDED

The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of "the saints next door". At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.



KEY WORDS

Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual's vocation. The first is dream. Everyone dreams of finding fulfillment in life ... It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life's mystery. Indeed, we only have life if we give it; we truly possess it only if we generously give it away. Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard, because, through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift.

“PROFOUND AND UNEXPECTED”

God does not like to reveal Himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys His plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. In this way, as He did with Saint Joseph, He sets before us profound and unexpected horizons.

LIVING FOR OTHERS

A second word marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation: service. The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself.

FAITHFULNESS

Together with God's call, which makes our greatest dreams come true, and our response, which is made up of generous service and attentive care, there is a third characteristic of Saint Joseph's daily life and our Christian vocation, namely fidelity.

THE SECRET OF JOY

This fidelity is the secret of joy ... I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving Him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May Saint Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart!

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