DAY 7

**Holy Mary, Pray for Us**

All Christians belong to St. Joseph because Jesus and Mary belonged to him.

— St. Leonard of Port Maurice

You belong to Jesus. He wants you to grow in virtue and holiness — that is, in true love of God and neighbor. To make this happen, you must imitate Jesus. In particular, the best way is to imitate his total entrustment to Mary and St. Joseph. Jesus is not offended when people entrust themselves to Mary and Joseph. How could he be? He is the first one to have entrusted himself to them! He, more than anyone else, wants you to love Mary and St. Joseph. He wants you to love them and resemble them.

What brother would be offended if his younger siblings expressed reverence toward their mother and father? What man would be upset if another person wrote a song about his mother or placed roses at her feet? Likewise, what son would be disturbed if someone praised the virtues of his father? A person who honored a father would not receive condemnation from the father’s son. On the contrary, such a person would receive praise and tremendous favors from the son. Well, this is exactly what Jesus stands ready to do for those who honor Mary and St. Joseph. Jesus will give them everything. Jesus stands ready to give you everything!

Now, if a son is willing to give gifts to the person who honors his mother and father, what kind of gifts would a husband give to the person who honors his wife? All we have to do is look to St. Joseph to find out. Saint Joseph will empty the treasure of heaven for those who honor Mary, his wife!

Saint Joseph will greatly bless those who love and honor Mary. The Virgin Mary is St. Joseph’s wife, his queen, and the delight of his heart. She was the only woman who could ever satisfy his chaste heart. As Adam was not fulfilled until he rested in a creature similar to himself (Eve), Joseph only found rest when he found Mary. When he took Mary’s hand in marriage, he consecrated himself to her and made a promise to treasure her femininity, especially her blessed virginity. He was her beloved provider, protector, and servant. Saint Joseph earnestly desires for her to be honored and loved by everyone.

Saint Joseph will increase your love for the Virgin Mary. Saint Joseph is so in love with Mary that he wants everyone to acknowledge her beauty. What husband would not want this for his wife? Doesn’t every husband desire for his wife to be loved and honored by others? What husband would not do everything in his power to increase the reverence shown to his bride? If you allow St. Joseph to increase your love for his queen, he will empty the treasures of heaven for you. He has access to all the treasures of heaven!

Consecration to St. Joseph will make you a knight of the Holy Queen! Saint Joseph knows that Mary is worth living for, fighting for, and dying for. She is the Queen of the Kingdom of Heaven. To fight for her is to fight for the King. Saint Joseph, the most valiant of knights, knows that the surest, easiest, and fastest way to the King is through the Queen. His mission is to reveal this truth to souls.

For her part, Mary has full confidence in the chivalrous love of St. Joseph, her knight. She completely trusts him. Saint Joseph will teach you how to be a knight of the Holy Queen as well, making you capable of conquering hearts for the Kingdom of Heaven.

A servant of Mary will have a tender devotion to St. Joseph, and by his pious homage of respect and love, will endeavor to merit the protection of this great saint — Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

O my dear father St. Joseph, I want to love you with the love that Mary has for you.

— Blessed Bartolo Longo

Read “The Consecrated Knight”

Pray the Litany of St. Joseph

Additional reading from Day 7

**The Consecrated Knight**

Saint Joseph sweetly and continuously stimulates us to love, serve, and imitate the Queen of his heart, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus.— Blessed Gabriele Allegra

Saint Joseph is the most Marian of all saints. His love for Mary is greater than that of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. John Paul II combined. There has never been a greater Marian saint than St. Joseph, and there never will be.

Saint Joseph is the model for total consecration to Mary. Long before Calvary, when Jesus commanded all of his disciples to take Mary into their hearts and homes (see Jn 19:26-27), St. Joseph had already taken Mary into his heart and into his home. She is his heart; she is his home. Everything he did was done for Jesus and Mary. He lived and died for Jesus and Mary.

Like Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home. — Pope Benedict XVI

Saint Joseph is the first human person to have been totally consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. If you were to ask Our Lady who is the one human person in all of Christianity who has loved her most, been the most devoted to her, and served her most faithfully, she would undoubtedly point to St. Joseph. He is the prototype, blueprint, and model for how to live a life of total consecration to Mary.

The various forms of Marian consecration promoted by saints down through the centuries — for example, those of St. Louis de Montfort, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Servant of God Joseph Kentenich, and others — all find their fulfillment and perfection in the person of St. Joseph.

Saint Louis de Montfort’s program of Marian consecration teaches people to be slaves of Jesus and Mary; Blessed William Joseph Chaminade teaches people to act as the heel of Mary, crushing the head of Satan; the Servant of God Joseph Kentenich instructs people to become an “apparition” of Mary; and St. Maximilian Kolbe’s method of Marian consecration instructs people to be the property of Mary. All of these forms are wonderful ways of describing the one fundamental dimension of all Marian consecration: Be another Joseph for Mary.

All the great Marian movements (the Militia Immaculatae, Schoenstatt, the Legion of Mary, the former Blue Army [now called the World Apostolate of Fatima], and so many others), have Marian chivalry at their core. To be chivalrous toward Mary is to be on the path of sainthood. A person who is chivalrous is noble, well-mannered, courageous in battle, and a refuge for the weak. Saint Joseph is the most chivalrous of all Christians, and he teaches us that everyone, including women and children, can be spiritual knights of the Queen of Heaven. He is, in fact, the first consecrated knight of the Holy Queen.

For centuries, Christians have referred to the Virgin Mary as “Our Lady.” It’s a term that acknowledges the great love, respect, honor, and reverence that is owed to Mary. It is a term that bespeaks chivalry. It should come as no surprise, then, that St. Joseph is the first man to speak of Mary as his lady. Mary is St. Joseph’s woman. Before her feminine wonder and beauty, he bows in loving reverence. His mission is to have all hearts bow before her in love. For this reason, St. Joseph is the greatest knight of Our Lady.

During the Middle Ages, there were many stories and legends of knights traveling far and wide on heroic quests in search of the Holy Grail, the chalice that held the Blood of Jesus at the Last Supper. During the age of chivalry, no one but the priest drank the Blood of Jesus from the chalice at Mass. For this reason, as well as many others, the stories tell us that knights set out on quests in search of the lost Holy Grail, believing that if they drank from the chalice, they would be given eternal life. Their heroic quests were noble and well-intentioned, but unnecessary. All Catholics in a state of grace who receive the Body of Christ at Mass are assured everlasting life, even if they don’t drink from the chalice; they must, however, remain in a state of grace, observe the 10 Commandments, and obey the teachings of the Church. The storied quests of the medieval knights were unnecessary for another reason as well. All they had to do in order to find the true chalice of our Lord’s Precious Blood was to look to St. Joseph, the first and greatest knight of Our Lady! He knows where to find the living chalice containing the life-giving blood of Jesus Christ. The Holy Grail that St. Joseph possesses has not been lost. Saint Joseph stands ready to give this chalice to all his spiritual children.

What St. Joseph teaches his children is that the Virgin Mary is the Holy Grail! She is what every Christian knight seeks. Unlike the chalice used at the Last Supper, this vessel has not been lost. Mary, the Holy Grail, is easily found. Those who find her find Jesus because those who find her find Catholicism and its greatest treasure, Jesus in Holy Communion. Mary desires to lead all souls to Holy Mass where they can receive the Lamb of God and attain eternal life. All who imitate St. Joseph will discover Mary and the saving mystery of Holy Mass.

From heaven, St. Joseph continues his quest to lead all souls to Jesus through Mary. From heaven, he looks for souls who are willing to be knights of the Holy Queen. He desires to raise up loving defenders and heroic champions of Jesus, Mary, and the Catholic faith. He wants men, women, children, priests, and nuns who will serve Mary and lead others to the Kingdom of Heaven. Valiant souls are needed today, Joseph-like souls, who zealously strive to lead others to the fountain of everlasting life.

To Jesus through Mary and St. Joseph!

He [St. Joseph] always favors with especial protection those souls who are enrolled beneath the standard of Mary!— St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi

When the Holy Virgin and St. Joseph intercede together it is very powerful!

— St. André Bessette

Grant that according to your example [St. Joseph] we may keep our eyes fixed on our mother Mary, your most sweet spouse.

— Venerable Pope Pius