



March 19, 2021 Feast of St. Joseph ... Year of St. Joseph

jeudi 18 mars 2021, par [Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny](#)

"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." [\(Pope Francis : Patris Corde\)](#)

2021 Year of St. Joseph

In his [Apostolic Letter 'Patris Corde'](#) (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis reflects on the gift of St. Joseph to each one of us and to the universal church as a whole ... especially during this time of the epidemic ! Following are some excerpts of the Pope's letter.

I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Mt 12:34). —My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. 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". [\(Meditation in the Time of Pandemic](#) (27 March 2020) : L'Osservatore Romano, 29 March 2020, p. 10)

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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.

*... Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious Institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him. Among them was **Teresa of Avila, who chose him as her advocate and intercessor**, had frequent recourse to him and received whatever graces she asked of him. **Encouraged by her own experience, Teresa persuaded others to cultivate devotion to Joseph.***

... Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

*... In every situation, Joseph declared his own "**fiat**", like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.*



March 19, Feast of Saint Joseph ... patron and provider of the congregation

Anne Marie Javouhey had chosen Bernard as patron of the first chapel dedicated in Chalon in 1807. She was thus acknowledging her connection with the Trappist monk Dom Augustin de l'Estrange and her experience as a novice at Val Sainte. But the priest who was to celebrate the first Mass questioned her choice.

"St. Teresa always dedicated her houses to St. Joseph," he said. "Besides, my name is Joseph !" Recalling the great saint's revelation to her of her vocation, Anne Marie acquiesced without further ado.

Henceforth, Joseph was to be the patron and provider of the congregation.



Images of St. Joseph : In and around the Mother House, Paris, France