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"Get to know Joseph and you will find Jesus"

"With St Joseph, the Christian learns what it means to belong to God and fully to assume one's place among men, sanctifying the world. Get to know Joseph and you will find Jesus." (Christ is Passing By, 56)

19 March

The whole Church recognizes St. Joseph as a patron and guardian. For centuries many different features of

his life have caught the attention of believers. He was a man ever faithful to the mission God gave him. That is why, for many years now, I have liked to address him affectionately as "our father and lord."

St. Joseph really is a father and lord. He protects those who revere him and accompanies them on their journey through this life - just as he protected and accompanied Jesus when he was growing up. As you get to know him, you discover that the holy patriarch is also a master of the interior life - for he teaches us to know Jesus and share our life with him, and to realize that we are part of God's family. St. Joseph can teach us these lessons, because he is an ordinary man, a family man, a worker who earned his living by manual labor - all of which has great significance and is a source of happiness for us. (Christ is Passing By, 39)

In human life, Joseph was Jesus' master in their daily contact, full of refined affection, glad to deny himself to take better care of Jesus. Isn't that reason enough for us to consider this just man, this holy patriarch, in whom the faith of the old covenant bears fruit, as a master of interior life? Interior life is nothing but continual and direct conversation with Christ, so as to become one with him. And Joseph can tell us many things about Jesus. Therefore, never neglect devotion to him - *Ite ad Ioseph*: "Go to Joseph" - as Christian tradition puts it in the words of the Old Testament. (Gen 41:55)

A master of interior life, a worker deeply involved in his job, God's servant in continual contact with Jesus: that is Joseph. *Ite ad Ioseph*. With St Joseph, the Christian learns what it means to belong to God and fully to assume one's place among

men, sanctifying the world. Get to know Joseph and you will find Jesus. Talk to Joseph and you will find Mary, who always sheds peace about her in that attractive workshop in Nazareth. (Christ is Passing By, 56)

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