

LENTEN PARISH MISSION: "LENT WITH SAINT JOSEPH"

Saint Peter Catholic Church • North Saint Paul, Minnesota

February 20-24, 2021

PREACHER: Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.

Fatherhood in Saint Joseph

St. John Damascene: "Joseph not only had the name of father of Jesus, but he also had the reality of it, as much as any man could."

POPE FRANCIS: "All four Gospels refer to Jesus as 'the son of Joseph.'"

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II: "St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. [Even though Jesus was not born from Joseph's seed], Joseph is not deprived of his fatherly authority."

POPE ST. PAUL VI: "Joseph's fatherhood is expressed concretely in his having made his life a service, a sacrifice to the mystery of the Incarnation and to the redemptive mission connected with it... in making a total gift of self, of his life and work; in having turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of self, an oblation of his heart and all his abilities into love placed at the service of the Messiah growing up in his house."

POPE PIUS XII: "Joseph showed Jesus by a special gift from heaven, all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know."

FR. CORNELIUS A LAPIDE, S.J. (+1637): "St. Joseph was more the father of Christ than an adoptive father is father of his adoptive son."

BISHOP JACQUES-BENIGNE BOSSUET (+1704): "The true Father of Jesus Christ placed in Joseph's breast a ray or spark of his own boundless love for his Son. This it was that changed his heart and aroused in him a paternal love so strong that he felt God was also commanding him to use a father's authority."

POPE FRANCIS: "Joseph showed Jesus, by a special gift from heaven, all the natural love, all the affectionate solicitude that a father's heart can know."

POPE FRANCIS: "Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom."

J.R.R. TOLKIEN - in a letter to his son: "The link between father and son is not only of the perishable flesh: it must have something of [the eternal] about it."

R.AiSSA MARITAIN: "Looking at the photograph of a sculpture in Chartres Cathedral- God molding Adam- I'm drawn to recollection by the thought that our very loving Father continues to mold us like that right up to the day when our perfection is achieved in heaven."

BISHOP MASSIMO CAMISASCA: "A father desires to help his child truly to 'meet' himself and what is around him. He wants to make him walk on the earth without forgetting the stars."

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II: "One must enter the radiation of fatherhood, since only there does everything become fully real."

ST. PIUS X: "O Joseph, virgin father of Jesus!"

BISHOP GIACOMO SINIBALDI (+1928): "Joseph is father in the supernatural order, not according to nature, but according to the spirit. He is father in the most noble, most sublime and divine sense. The bond which unites him with his august Son is more and, therefore, more intimate and stronger than a physical bond."

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT: "The marriage of Mary and Joseph was ordained in order to make people regard St. Joseph as their father, even as they recognize Mary as their Mother."

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II: "[One of the chief effects of original sin is that it] attempts to abolish fatherhood,...placing in doubt the truth about God who is Love and leaving man only with a sense of the master-slave relationship."

JOHN WATERS: "Fatherhood is only visible in its absence."

Lost in the Victory - World War II orphan Kathleen Eaton: "Sometimes before I fall asleep, or on his birthday, Father's Day, or a holiday, I ache for him. I want to hear his voice, smell his after-shave, watch him eat, write a letter, shave, comb his hair, and to hold me. Growing up, I could feel him close to me, like a guardian angel. I would talk to him in my head... I think about him every day, and still I feel he guards me."

JOSEPH CAMPBELL: "The pursuit of the father has to do with finding one's own character and destiny."

POPE BENEDICT XVI: "The word 'Father' makes me sure of one thing: I do not come from myself; I am a child. I am tempted at first to protest against this reminder as the prodigal Son did. I want to be 'of age', 'emancipated,' my own master. But then I ask myself: What is the alternative for me-or for any person-if I no longer have a father, if I have left my state as child definitively behind me? What have I gained thereby? Am I really free? No, I am free only when there is a principle of freedom, when there is

someone who loves and whose love is strong. Ultimately, then, I have no alternative but to turn back again, to say 'Father', and in that way to gain access to freedom by acknowledging the truth about myself."

5 Marks of Fatherhood:

1. A father believes that you are the best child in the world because you are his.

2. A father refuses to become fatalistic about your failures.

- **JOHN WATERS:** "By the background radiation of a father's presence, a father lets his children become themselves."

3. A father knows the worst about you and loves you all the more because you need to be loved.

4. A father is someone who believes that you can do anything he wishes because he wants only what he knows you are capable of doing.

- **ROBERT BLY:** "A father is one who leaves spaces for the competences of his children to grow."

5. A father loves you simply because you are his.

POPE FRANCIS: "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another in some way he becomes a father to that person"