

LENTEN PARISH MISSION: "LENT WITH SAINT JOSEPH"

SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH • NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

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PREACHER: FR. PETER JOHN CAMERON, O.P.

TUESDAY CONFERENCE

Virginity in Saint Joseph

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: "God gave Joseph all that belongs to a father without loss of virginity."

FR. REGINALD GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE, O.P.: "Saint Joseph's virtues are those especially of the hidden life, in a degree proportioned to that of his sanctifying grace: virginity, humility, poverty, patience, prudence, fidelity, simplicity, faith enlightened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, confidence in God, and perfect charity. The hidden virtues, which are practiced away from the public view and under the eye of God alone, are not only neglected but hardly even heard of. And yet this is the secret of true virtue... a man must be built up interiorly in himself before he deserves to be given rank among others; and if this foundation is lacking, all other virtues, however brilliant, will be mere display. Joseph sought God in simplicity; Joseph found God in detachment; Joseph enjoyed God's company in obscurity."

ST. JEROME: "Joseph knew Mary's holiness hid in silence a mystery he did not understand."

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: "Joseph believed her chastity more than her womb, and the work of grace more than the work of nature. He could see that she was pregnant but could not suspect that she had had relations. He believed it was more possible for a virgin to conceive without a man than for Mary to sin."

FR. MICHEL GASNIER, O.P.: "There was, then, only one thing for Joseph to do, one risk to take. He would put her aside, not because he believed her guilty but because he revered in her a mystery. He must return her ring, take back the wedding gifts, and go away. No one would know where. He would be blamed for cowardly behavior, for unfaithfulness-but no blame would fall on her. Then the angel said, *Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife*. If Joseph were getting ready to leave Mary, it was not because he doubted her but because he feared that in staying with her a fatherhood which he dared not assume would be attributed to him, a fatherhood in whose mystery he dared not intrude, lest in doing so he offend his Lord."

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II: "Joseph, in obedience to the Spirit, found in the Spirit the source of love, the conjugal love which he experienced as a man. And this love

proved to be greater than this 'just man' could ever have expected within the limits of his human heart."

ST. AUGUSTINE: "As Mary was in chastity a mother so was Joseph in chastity a father. What others desire to fulfill in the flesh, he in a more excellent way fulfilled in the spirit."

BISHOP JACQUES-BENIGNE BOSSUET (+1704): The virginity of Mary is the property of St. Joseph by reason of the marriage, and he protects that property. "If Joseph had so great a share in the holy virginity of Mary, he also partakes of the fruit which she bears; and this is why Jesus is his Son."

ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN: "Joseph was a virgin, and his virginity was the faithful mirror of the virginity of Mary. He was the Cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from the intrusion of every foe."

ST. CLAUDE LA COLOMBIERE: "Even if there were no other reason to praise St. Joseph, we should do so in order to please Mary."

CCC 356: "Man is 'the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake', and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God's own life. It was for this end that he was created, and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity."

POPE FRANCIS: "Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts, and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him."

It is not for his gifts that I continue in my prayers, but because he is true Life.
It is not for gifts, but for the Giver that I ever yearn. It is not by the desire for life,
But by the remembrance of him who gives life that I am ever consumed! It is not for joyous
Passions that I yearn, but it is because of a desire for him who is preparing them that my
Heart bursts out in tears. It is not rest that I seek, but it is the face of him who offers rest that I
Seek in prayer. It is not for the nuptial banquet, but it is for the Bridegroom that I long. Despite the weight
of my transgressions I believe with indubitable hope that not only shall I obtain pardon, but that I shall
seek him in person, but that I shall see him in person, thanks to his mercy and pity, and that I shall inherit
heaven although I completely deserve to be banished. Receive with sweetness, O powerful Lord the
prayer of him who was bitterness for you. Grant that through remembrance of your hope I may remain
unscathed, protected by you.

St. Gregory of Narek