

Knights of Columbus
Council 459
Spiritual Training
March - St. Joseph the Husband

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

St. Joseph the Husband

- Tonight we are speaking about Saint Joseph- particularly, his role as a husband.
 - Saint Joseph is obviously an extremely important figure in Salvation. This is not because of any great role he played in directly allowing Salvation to happen:
 - It is because of his commitment be the caretaker of the two greatest actors in Salvation history: Jesus and Mary.
- This commitment began with a single decision- and not an easy one. We all know the story of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary. We might forget sometimes that Joseph experienced an extremely similar annunciation
 - Both Annunciations came with a decision:
 - Mary was asked to accept that she would be the mother of the Savior, by supernatural conception
 - Joseph was asked to accept that Mary's pregnancy was of divine origins, and to go through with the marriage and raise the child.
 - Before Joseph learned about Mary's pregnancy he was already technically her husband, but he still had the opportunity to walk away... yet he didn't.
 - In the tradition of the time a couple would be betrothed by a Rabbi, and then several weeks or months later would move in together
 - Joseph, as the Gospel tells us, had resolved to "quietly divorce" Mary instead of putting her to shame by doing so publicly. Instead, the angel interceded and asked him to accept the reality of Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit. He did.

- The “Yes” given by each of these parents individually were critical acts in the story of Salvation.
- Joseph’s “yes” mirrors the “yes” given by all fathers: the child is ultimately a child of God, and men are ultimately foster fathers.
 - Men with children can follow Joseph’s example by bringing children into the world according to God’s plans, and not always their own. (we see the philosophical connection to NFP)
- Joseph accepted two roles as a member of the Holy Family- Father, as we have just discussed, and also Husband.
 - Joseph is the guardian of the two most pivotal actors in salvation history. He provided for and sheltered them, and through his reverence for them maintained their honor.
- If you look at the Bible, there is not one word from St. Joseph. We hear a lot from Mary and Jesus, but nothing from St. Joseph. St. Joseph serves the Holy Family, but in his humility stays out of the spotlight.
 - It’s a reminder to those who are husbands that part of the vocation is to help our families shine, which sometimes means blending into the background.
- In addition to his humility, St. Joseph was spiritually united with Mary and Jesus. And while physical union between husband and wife is important, it is the spiritual union between spouses that is more important.
 - The Church maintains that because of his particular role, Joseph was never physically united with his wife.
 - St. Joseph models what husbands should do with their wives spiritually, which is pray with them and for them, help them grow closer to God, and be one heart for the love of God.
- Like Joseph, all husbands make an initial decision, followed by commitment, to in some small way to bring Christ into the world with their wives.

Closing Prayer

O Blessed Saint Joseph, faithful guardian and protector of virgins, to whom God entrusted Jesus and Mary, I implore you by the love which you bear them to preserve

me from every defilement of soul and body, that I may always serve them in holiness, purity and love. Amen.

Resources

- Fr. Frederick L. Miller, “St. Joseph: Our Father in Faith”