

Knights of Columbus
Council 459
Spiritual Training
May - St. Joseph the Worker

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 Worker

- In the early 20th century, as the old order of the world collapsed in war and revolution, the largely forgotten working class experienced a resurgence
 - This manifested itself in positive and negative ways
 - We all know the basic story of Communism. Karl Marx's broken logic proposed a means for creating a "classless society," and desperate and mistreated people latched onto it
 - What Marx and the Communists lacked was a concern for Human Dignity. Communism was plainly motivated first and foremost by hatred for the privileged, not love for humanity.
 - Hatred for the privileged can be rationalized into something positive, but it always taints the actions that it inspires.
- Now, the Catholic Faith is centered around the dignity of the human being, illustrated by God becoming Man himself. All it needed was a shift in focus to illustrate its relevance and establish its legitimacy over Communist ideals
- The beauty of work is deep-seated in our faith. It is illustrated in the very opening pages of the Bible, as Genesis illustrates God's creation out of love and asserts the importance of rest
 - It should be noted that work was part of God's plan, not a result of original sin. Adam and Eve were to be stewards of the Garden of Eden even before they turned from God
 - However, our biggest obstacle to work, toil, is a result of original sin

- In 1955, as Communism began to seriously challenge human dignity, world peace, and in a very direct way Christian Faith, Pope Pius XII moved to establish a feast day to celebrate the sanctity of work
 - What better day than May 1st, to steal the thunder of the communist worker's festival of "May Day?"
 - What better patron than Saint Joseph?
- We do not know very much about St. Joseph- he is not actually quoted with a single word in the Gospel- but what we do know is very important
 - He was the foster father of Jesus and head of the Holy Family
 - He was a carpenter and of humble means
 - He was a descendant of the Royal line of King David
- St Joseph, like all workers, was a steward of his family and his community
 - As a carpenter, he contributed in his small way to creation.
 - As a breadwinner, he was the protector of his family
 - And, as the breadwinner of the *Holy Family*, he contributed in a BIG way to salvation history.
 - None of us knows how the work we do or the people we provide for will affect the world. So we'd better do a good job.
- St Joseph can and should be called upon to intercede for all those who work- or are out of work!
 - Hopefully he can be a role model to help us better understand the good that comes about through work and the sanctity of being a steward of our own corners of creation

Closing Prayer

God our Father, Creator and Ruler of the universe, in every age you call us to use and develop our gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Please grant this through Christ our Lord.

Resources

- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-joseph-the-worker/>