

AUGUST 16

### Saint Joachim, Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary

PRAYER IS GOOD with fasting and palms more than to lay up treasures of gold" (Tobias 12:8). Far better than Tobias did Joachim experience the truth of the Archangel's word. Tradition says that he divided his income into three parts: the first for the Temple, the second for the poor, and the third for his family....

Joachim's wealth, like that of the first patriarchs, consisted chiefly in flocks and herds. The holy use he made of it drew down God's blessing upon it. But the greatest of all his desires heaven seemed to refuse him. His holy spouse Anne was barren. Amongst all the daughters of Israel expecting the Messiah, there was no hope for her. One day the victims Joachim presented in the Temple were contemptuously rejected. Those were not the gifts the Lord of the Temple desired of him; later on, instead of lambs from his pastures, he was to present the mother of the Lamb of God, and His offering would not be rejected.

This day, however, he was filled with sorrow and fled away without returning to his wife. He hastened to the mountains where his flocks were at pasture; and living in a tent, he fasted continually, for he said: "I will take no food till the Lord my God look mercifully upon me; prayer shall be my nourishment."

Meanwhile Anne was mourning her widowhood and her barrenness. She prayed in her garden as Joachim was praying on the mountain. Their prayers ascended

at the same time to the Most High, and He granted them their request. An angel of the Lord appeared to each of them and bade them meet at the Golden Gate; and soon Anne could say: "Now I know that the Lord hath greatly blessed me. For I was a widow and I am one no longer, and I was barren, and lo! I have conceived!"

The Gradual again proclaims the merit of almsgiving and the value God sets upon holiness of life. The descendants of Joachim shall be mighty and blessed in heaven and upon earth. May he deign to exert his influence with his all-holy daughter, and with his grandson Jesus, for our salvation....

Father of Mary, we thank you. All creation owes you a debt of gratitude, since the Creator was pleased that you should give Him the Mother He had chosen for Himself.

Husband of holy Anne, you show us what would have been in paradise: you seem to have been reinstated in primeval innocence, in order to give birth to the Immaculate Virgin, sanctify Christian life, and elevate the standard of morals. You are the Grandfather of Jesus: let your paternal love embrace all Christians who are His brethren. Holy Church honors you more than ever in these days of trial; she knows how powerful you are with the Eternal and Almighty Father, who made you instrumental, through your blessed daughter, in the temporal generation of his Eternal Son.

*Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger O.S.B. (1805-1875).*



### Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

#### ADDENDUM:

#### COMMEMORATION OF SAINT JOACHIM, FATHER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



#### SECOND COLLECT

DEUS, qui prae omnibus Sanctis tuis beatum Jóachim Genitricis Filii tui patrem esse voluísti: concéde, quæsumus; ut, cujus memóriam venerámur, ejus quoque perpétuo patrocínia sentiámus. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

O GOD, Who of all Thy Saints didst choose the blessed Joachim to be father to the Mother of Thy Son: grant, we beseech Thee, that we who honor his memorial, may evermore experience his patronage. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord ...

#### SECOND SECRET

SÚCÍPE, clementíssime Deus, sacrificium in hónorem sancti Patriárchæ Jóachim, patris Mariæ Vírginis, majestáti tuæ oblátum: ut, cum cónjuge sua, et beatíssima prole intercedente, perfectam cónsequi mereámur remissionem peccatórum, et glóriam sempitérnám. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

RECEIVE, most merciful God, the Sacrifice which we offer Thy Majesty in honor of the holy Patriarch Joachim, the father of the Virgin Mary: that through his intercession, with that of his spouse and of his most blessed child, we may become worthy to obtain perfect pardon of our sins and win eternal glory. Through our Lord...

#### SECOND POSTCOMMUNION

QUÆSUMUS, omnipotens Deus: ut per hæc sacraménta, quæ sumpsimus, intercedéntibus méritis et préciibus beáti Jóachim, patris Genitricis dilécti Filii tui Dómini nostri Jesu Christi, tuæ grátiae in præsentí, et ætérnæ glóriæ in futúro, partícipes esse mereámur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum ...

WE BESEECH Thee, O almighty God, that through these Mysteries we have received, and by the intercessory merits and prayers of blessed Joachim, father of the Mother of Thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we may become worthy to receive Thy grace in this present life and eternal glory in the life to come. Through the same ...

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