

COMMUNION (Matt. 1. 20)

JOSEPH, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is born in her is of the Holy Ghost.

JOSEPH, fili David, noli timere accipere Mariam conjugem tuam: quod enim in ea natum est, de Spiritu Sancto est.

POSTCOMMUNION

BE present with us, we beseech Thee, O merciful God, and by the intercession of blessed Joseph, the Confessor, mercifully preserve Thy gifts within us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

ADĒSTO nobis, quæsumus, miséricors Deus: et, intercedente pro nobis beato Joseph Confessore, tua circa nos propitiatus dona custodi. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

During Lent: Commemoration of the feria.

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THERE IS NOT even a tradition concerning Joseph's burial place, nor is there any spot where his relics are venerated. Silent in life, silent in death, he was stripped of all things not essential to true glory.

He, above all, was that saint who understood, as Bossuet says, "That to be hidden in Christ Jesus is of all glories the greatest." He had sought not what the world admires, but what was pleasing to his Lord. If, in effacing himself before the Divine will, he had already procured for himself the greatest of joys, these were only a prelude to the marvelous rewards with which God would crown him. According to his self-abasement, so would his exaltation be. Because he did not try to appear before men, he would be glorified in their sight. Because he loved to be hidden and unknown, God would make his light shine for all the world to see. But God wished to leave to men to discover his greatness, to become ever more aware of his radiance as if to prove in his case the truth of Jacob's prophecy concerning that other Joseph of the Old Testament: *Joseph accrescens* — Joseph destined to be raised on high.

After his death Mary surely spoke to St. John and the other Apostles of him who had surrounded her with such

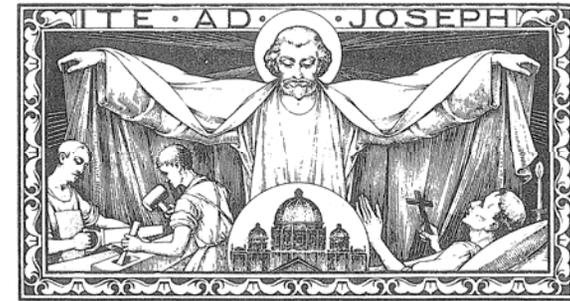
devoted care, whom she had loved with such virginal tenderness. It might be said that the first panegyrics to St. Joseph were preached by Mary.

Yet devotion to him in the early Christian Church was non-existent, or at least no trace of it can be found. His name and memory were wrapped in obscurity. That silence so complete in his earthly life seemed to be continued in his heavenly life, as if nothing concerning him was ever to be known.

This apparent obloquy is easily explained. As the Church was then still in a state of struggle and formation, it was essential that before devotion to the spouse of Mary could be promulgated, it was necessary that her virginity be recognized and revered, and at the same time the divinity of her Son be well established. In favoring devotion to St. Joseph, the Church feared there might arise misunderstandings, that the honor paid to him might be taken as honor paid to the father of Jesus according to the flesh.... The long delay, however, served but to enhance with greater splendor the field of glory on which one day he was to be crowned. The time came when God could no longer allow one to whom he had shown such deference while on earth to remain longer in obscurity.

Commentary from Joseph the Silent by Fr. Henri-Michel Gasnier, O.P. (1899-1964).

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary



INTROIT (Ps. 91. 13, 14)

JUSTUS ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri. *Psal.* Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. *V.* Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. — Justus ut palma florébit ...

THE just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. *Ps. ibid. 2.* It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy name, O Most High. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — The just shall flourish ...

COLLECT

SANCTÍSSIME Genitricis tuæ Sponsi, quæsumus, Dómine, méritis adjuvémur: ut, quod possibilitas nostra non óbtinet, ejus nobis intercessióne donétur: Qui vivis et regnas in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, that we may be helped by the merits of the Spouse of Thy Most Holy Mother: so that what we cannot obtain of ourselves, may be given to us through his intercession: Who livest and reignest, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

During Lent: Commemoration of the feria.

LESSON

From the Book of Ecclesiasticus, 45. 1-6.

DILÉCTUS Deo et hominibus, cujus memória in benedictióne est. Similem illum fecit in glória sanctorum, et magnificávit eum in timóre inimicórum, et in verbis suis monstra placávit. Glorificávit illum in conspéctu

BELOVED of God and men, whose memory is in benediction. He made him like the Saints in glory, and magnified him in the fear of his enemies, and with his words he made prodigies to cease. He glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him com-

mandments in the sight of his people, and showed him His glory. He sanctified him in his faith and meekness, and chose him out of all flesh. For He heard him and his voice, and brought him into a cloud. And He gave him commandment before His face, and a law of life and instruction.

GRADUAL (Ps. 20. 4, 5)

LORD, Thou hast prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of Thee, and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

TRACT (Ps. 111. 1, 3)

BLESSED is the man that feareth the Lord: he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house: and his justice remaineth for ever and ever.

During Eastertide, the Gradual and Tract are omitted and the following is prayed:

ALLELUIA, Alleluia. (*Ecclus. 45. 9.*) The Lord loved him, and adorned him; He clothed him with a robe of glory. Alleluia. (*Hosea 14. 6.*) The just shall spring as the lily; and shall flourish for ever before the Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 1. 18-21.

WHEN MARY the mother of Jesus was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Whereupon Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that

regum, et jussit illi coram pópulo suo, et osténdit illi glóriam suam. In fide, et lenitáte ipsius, sanctum fecit illum, et elégit eum ex omni carne. Audívit enim eum, et vocem ipsius, et indúxit illum in nubem. Et dedit illi coram præcépta, et legem vitæ et disciplinæ.

DÓMINE, prævenisti eum in benedictiónibus dulcédinis: posuisti in cápite ejus coronam de lapide pretiósio. Vitam pétiiit a te, et tribuisti ei longitúdinem diérum in sæculum sæculi.

BEÁTUS vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatio rectórum benedicétur. Glória et divitiæ in domo ejus: et justitia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi.

ALLELÚIA, Alleluia. *V.* Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ indúit eum. Alleluia. *V.* Justus germinábit sicut liliúm: et florébit in ætérnum ante Dóminum. Alleluia.

CUM ESSET desponsáta mater Jesu María Joseph, ántequam convenirent, invénta est in útero habens de Spirítu Sancto. Joseph autem vir ejus, cum esset justus, et nollet eam tradúcere, vóluit occúlte dimíttre eam. Hæc autem eo cogitánte, ecce Ángelus Dómini appáruit in somnis ei, dicens: Joseph, fili David, noli timére accíperre Mariam cónjugem tuam: quod enim in ea

natum est, de Spirítu Sancto est. Páriet autem filium, et vocábis nomen ejus Jesum: ipse enim salvum fáciat pópulum suum a peccátis eórum. — *Credo.*

which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. — *Creed.*

OFFERTORY (Ps. 88. 25)

VÉRITAS mea, et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.

MY truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

SECRET

DÉBITUM tibi, Dómine, nostræ réddimus servitútis, suppliciter exorántes: ut, suffrágiis beáti Joseph, Sponsi Genitricis Filii tui Jesu Christi Dómini nostri, in nobis tua múnera tueáris, ob cujus venerándam festivitátem laudis tibi hóstias immolámus. Per eúndem Dóminum ...

WE render unto Thee, O Lord, the duty of our service, humbly entreating Thee to preserve Thine own gifts within us through the prayers of blessed Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, on whose holy festival we offer to Thee this sacrifice of praise. Through the same...

During Lent: Commemoration of the feria.

PREFACE OF SAINT JOSEPH

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Et te in Festivitaté beáti Joseph débitis magnificáre præcóniis, benedicere et prædicáre. Qui et vir justus, a te Déiparæ Virgini Sponsus est datus: et fidélis servus ac prudens, super Familiam tuam est constitútus: ut Unigénitum tuum, Sancti Spirítus obumbratióne concéptum, patrénna vice custodíret, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestátes. Cœli, cœlorúmque Virtútes, ac beáta Séraphim, sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessiõe dicéntes:—*Sanctus.*

IT is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God; and that we should magnify with due praises, bless and proclaim Thee on the Feast of blessed Joseph: who, being a just man, was given by Thee as a Spouse to the Virgin Mother of God, and, as a faithful and prudent servant was set over Thy Family, that, with fatherly care, he might guard Thine only-begotten Son, conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. through Whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, the Dominations worship it, and the Powers stand in awe. The heavens and the heavenly hosts together with the blessed Seraphim in triumphant chorus unite to celebrate it. Together with them we entreat Thee that Thou mayest bid our voices also to be admitted, while we say with lowly praise: — *Sanctus.*