

The Work of God

CHRISTIAN FAITH and calling affect our whole existence, not just a part of it. Our relations with God necessarily demand giving ourselves, giving ourselves completely. The man of faith sees life, in all its dimensions, from a new perspective: that which is given us by God.

You, who celebrate with me today this Feast of St. Joseph, are men who work in different human professions; you have your own homes, you belong to so many different countries and have different languages. You have been educated in lecture halls or in factories and offices. You have worked in your profession for years, established professional and personal friendships with your colleagues, helped to solve the problems of your companies and your communities.

Well then: I remind you once again that all this is not foreign to God's plan. Your human vocation is a part—an important part—of your divine vocation. That is the reason why you must strive for holiness, giving a particular character to your human personality, a style to your life; contributing at the same time to the sanctification of others, your fellow men; sanctifying your work and your environment: the profession or job that fills your day, your home and family and the country where you were born and which you love.

Work is part and parcel of man's life on earth. It involves effort, weariness and struggle which accompany human existence and which point to the reality of sin and the need for redemption. But in itself work is not a penalty or a curse or a punishment: those who speak of it that way have not understood sacred Scripture properly.

IT IS TIME for us Christians to shout from the rooftops that work is a gift from God and that it makes no sense to classify men differently, according to their occupation, as if some jobs were nobler than others. Work, all work, bears witness to the dignity of man, to his dominion over creation. It is an opportunity to develop one's personality. It is a bond of union with others, the way to support one's family, a means of aiding in the improvement of the society in which we live and in the progress of all humanity.

For a Christian these horizons extend and grow wider. For work is a participation in the creative work of God. When he created man and blessed him, he said: "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, and all living animals on the earth." And, moreover, since Christ took it into his hands, work has become for us a redeemed and redemptive reality. Not only is it the background of a man's life, it is a means and path of holiness. It is something to be sanctified and something which sanctifies.

Commentary from Christ Is Passing By, Saint Josemaría Escrivá (†1975).

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker



Is not this the carpenter's son?

INTROIT (Wisdom 10. 17)

SAPÍENTIA réddidit justis mercedem labórum suórum, et dedúxit illos in via mirábili, et fuit illis in velaménto diéi et in luce stellárum per noctem; allelúia, allelúia. *Psalm.* Nisi Dóminus aedificáverit domum, in vanum labórant qui aedificánt eam. *V.* Glória Patri, et Filio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saécula saeculórum. Amen. — Sapiéntia reddidit justis ...

WISDOM rendered to the just the wages of their labors and conducted them in a wonderful way; and she was to them for a covert by day and for the light of stars by night; alleluia, alleluia. *Ps. 126. 1.* Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. *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. — Wisdom rendered to the just ...

COLLECT

RERUM CÓNITOR Deus, qui legem labóris humano géneri statuisti: concéde propítius: ut, sancti Joseph exémplo et patrocinio, ópera perficiámus quæ præcipis, et præmia consequámur quæ promittis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saécula saeculórum.

O GOD, Creator of all things, who didst lay on the human race the law of labor: graciously grant, that by following the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage, we may carry out the work Thou dost command, and obtain the reward Thou dost promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

EPISTLE

From the Blessed Paul the Apostle to the Colossians, 3, 14-15, 17, 23-24.

BRETHREN: Have charity, which is the bond of perfection; and let the peace of Christ rejoice in your hearts, wherein also you are called in one body; and be ye thankful. All whatsoever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of our Lord Jesu Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. Whatsoever you do, do it from the heart: as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that you shall receive of the Lord the reward of inheritance. Serve ye the Lord Christ.

ALLELUIA

ALLELUIA, alleluia. (*Ps. 36.*) In whatever tribulation they shall cry to Me, I will hear them, and be their protection always.

Alleluia. Obtain for us, Joseph, grace to lead an innocent life; and may it ever be shielded by thy patronage. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 13, 54-58.

AT THAT TIME, coming into His own country, Jesus taught them in their synagogues, so that they wondered and said: "How came this man by this wisdom and miracles? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother named Mary, and His brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence therefore hath He all these things?" And they were scandalized in His regard. But Jesus said to them: "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country and in his own house." And He wrought not many miracles there because of their unbelief. — *Creed.*

OFFERTORY (Psalm 89, 17)

LET the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and direct Thou the works of our

FRATRES: Caritatem habete, quod est vinculum perfectiōnis, et pax Christi exsultet in cordibus vestris, in qua et vocati estis in uno corpore, et grati estote. Omne quodcumque facitis in verbo aut in opere, omnia in nomine Domini Jesu Christi, gratias agentes Deo et Patri per ipsum. Quodcumque facitis, ex animo operamini sicut Domino, et non hominibus, scientes quod a Domino accipietis retributionem hereditatis. Domino Christo servite.

ALLELUIA, alleluia. *V.* De quacumque tribulatione clamaverint ad me, exaudiam eos, et ero protector eorum semper.

Alleluia. *V.* Fac nos innocuam, Joseph, decurrere vitam: sitque tuo semper tuta patrocinio. Alleluia.

IN ILLO TEMPORE: Veniens Jesus in patriam suam, docebat eos in synagogis eorum, ita ut mirarentur et dicerent: Unde huic sapientia hæc et virtutes? Nonne hic est fabri filius? Nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria, et fratres ejus Jacobus et Joseph et Simon et Judas? Et sorores ejus nonne omnes apud nos sunt? Unde ergo huic omnia ista? Et scandalizabantur in eo. Jesus autem dixit eis: Non est propheta sine honore nisi in patria sua et in domo sua. Et non fecit ibi virtutes multas propter incredulitatem illorum. — *Credo.*

BONITAS Domini Dei nostri sit super nos, et opus manuum

nostrarum secunda nobis, et opus manuum nostrarum secunda. Alleluia.

hands over us; yea, the work of our hands to Thou direct. Alleluia.

SECRET

QUAS TIBI, Domine, operibus manuum nostrarum offerimus hostias, sancti Joseph interposito suffragio, pignus facias nobis unitatis et pacis. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

FROM the work of our hands we offer sacrifice to Thee, O Lord; through the mediation of Saint Joseph may it be a pledge for us of union and peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

PREFACE OF SAINT JOSEPH

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus: Et te in Festivitate beati Joseph debitis magnificare præconiis, benedicere et prædicare. Qui et vir justus, a te Deiparæ Virgini Sponsus est datus: et fidelis servus ac prudens, super Familiam tuam est constitutus: ut Unigenitum tuum, Sancti Spiritus obumbratione conceptum, paterna vice custodiret, Jesum Christum, Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Cæli, cælorumque Virtutes, ac beata Seraphim, socia exultatione concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplicii confessione dicentes: — *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.*

COMMUNION (Matthew 13, 54, 55)

UNDE huic sapientia hæc et virtutes? Nonne hic est fabri filius? Nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria? Alleluia.

HOW CAME this man by this wisdom and miracles? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother named Mary? Alleluia.

POSTCOMMUNION

HÆC SANCTA quæ sumpsimus, Domine: per intercessionem beati Joseph; et operationem nostrum compleant, et præmia confirmant. Per eundem Dominum ...

GRANT, O LORD, that what we have received may, by the intercession of blessed Joseph, crown our work and confirm our reward. Through the same, our Lord ...