

NINTH DAY

SAINT JOSEPH, ENTIRELY AT THE SERVICE OF JESUS

April 7, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

Every grace Saint Joseph received was given him for the service of our Lord and of the Blessed Virgin. Thus these graces were really not for himself. They could not stop at him, but like a flower shooting forth from the stem, they had to blossom into a virtue which would bend in obeisance toward Jesus through Mary. [...] No other work, nothing with which he came in contact could claim his love and attention. The Father had created and adorned him for His Son; the Word had prepared him for Himself alone; the Holy Trinity had enriched him with all the graces that had been given to the just of the Old Law, to the patriarchs and the prophets. Both in nature and in grace he had the heritage of all the saints who preceded him. Closer to our Lord than anyone else, he had, as it were, the choice of graces, the first fruits -- but they were given him only for the service of our Lord. Created for Jesus Christ, Saint Joseph had to live and to cultivate virtue only for Him. [...] From the moment the soul begins to put itself first, it becomes mercenary; it makes a little treasure of its own before offering the pittance it owes the Master. Saint Joseph did all for Jesus, happy in the thought that Jesus grew and became more prominent in proportion as the servant diminished and hid himself.

Further question to consider:

Have I thought about cultivating virtue and have I asked for spiritual gifts from God? If so, are they for myself, or at the end are they for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls? Can I see in St. Joseph, one who was adorned with so many gifts, but they were at the service of Jesus and the love of God?

Action Item:

- Do one act of service today, for example, a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. (If you need to remember what these are see the following Catechism point:
- (2447) *The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.²⁴¹ Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. the corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead.²⁴² Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God*
- <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Corporal-and-Spiritual-Works-of-Mercy.pdf>
- <https://focusequip.org/50-corporal-works-of-mercy-ideas-for-your-summer-bucket-list/>

Daily Prayer:

Be mindful of us, O blessed Joseph, and intercede for us with thy foster-Son by the pleading of thy prayer: do thou in like manner render the Blessed Virgin Mary, thy Spouse, gracious unto us, for she is the Mother of Him, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen. (*Memorare of St. Bernardine of Siena*)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

