

TWENTY FIRST DAY

SAINT JOSEPH PERFECT MODEL OF PURITY

April 19, 2021

St. Peter Julian Eymard writes:

Saint Joseph's most prized possessions were his chastity and his virginity. All the gold in the world could not buy them, for they are the symbol of royalty in the realm of God's love.

He prized this virtue as much as a servant glories in the neatness of his livery when serving his master.

Such must be the purity of the Eucharistic soul, above all of one who has bound itself to God's service by the vow of virginity. God confides to it the love, grace, and glory of His divine Son, as He confided it to Saint Joseph. Jesus is that soul's treasure, its King and God. Only by purity will it serve Him worthily.

First, purity of mind: by acting always from a pure intention and for the sole purpose of serving Jesus better.

Secondly, purity of heart: by loving Jesus above all and all else in Him.

Thirdly, purity of will: by desiring only what

God wills and only for His greater glory. Lastly, purity of body: by mortification after the example of Christ.

Saint Joseph, who because of your purity merited to be chosen as husband of the purest of virgins and to be called the foster-father of Jesus, obtain for us a purity like your own so that we may serve Jesus worthily on His throne of love together with Mary, the angels, and yourself.

THOUGHT FROM SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES.-

In a word, God gave him to Mary as companion of her purity. For that reason he had to surpass all the saints and even the angels and the cherubim in this beautiful virtue of virginity.

Further question to consider:

Do I act always from a pure intention and for the sole purpose of serving Jesus better? Do I love Jesus above all? Do I desire only what God wills and only for His greater glory?

Action Item:

Ask St. Joseph to remove the spiritual blindness that prevents you from seeing the impurities in your heart. Then ask Jesus for the grace to desire to love Him above all.

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