

THEME, SCRIPTURE, REFLECTION, PRAYER, CHALLENGE

DAY 5

FOSTER- FATHER OF THE SON OF GOD

The naming of a child in ancient Jewish custom was the legal responsibility of the father. Jesus had no earthly father; therefore, it belonged to His Heavenly Father to confer upon Him His name. God the Father transferred this right to Joseph, so that in His place, he should give Him the name of Jesus (Mt 1:21). In doing so, God the Father conferred to Joseph the paternal care of His Only-Begotten Son.

The paternity of St. Joseph is a mystery which deserves deep reflection. We may view the announcement of the angel to Joseph as the counterpart to the Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Joseph, like Mary, was called to his role in salvation history. In addition, St. Joseph's role in salvation history extends to the present day. In his apparition to St. Mary Ephrem, St. Joseph reveals the following:

"All fatherhood is blessed in me whom the Eternal Father chose as his representative on earth, the Virgin-Father of his own Divine Son. Through me the Heavenly Father has blessed all fatherhood, and through me he continues and will continue to do so till the end of time. My spiritual fatherhood extends to all God's children, and together with my Virgin Spouse I watch over them with great love and solicitude." **

**Calloway, Donald H.. Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father (pp. 199-200).
Marian Press. Kindle Edition

In his earthly life, St. Joseph would share in many mysteries he would not understand. His life would take many twists and turns, and he would be constantly thrown into circumstances that would call for the exercise of blind, heroic trust in God. Earthly fatherhood (whether biological or spiritual) also calls for heroic trust in God. Life is filled with circumstances beyond our control. However, fathers today can take comfort in the love and spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph. As he took care of Jesus on earth, he will take care of you too on your earthly pilgrimage.

St. Joseph, pray for me to have trust in God's plans for me and for my family, especially when times are tough. Watch over my life and be my provider and protector in a world that is filled with uncertainty.

Pray the [Litany of St. Joseph](#).

Daily Challenge: Turn to St. Joseph for his spiritual fatherhood and the grace of imitating his complete trust in God for every current and unforeseeable challenge in caring for your family (or your parish family).