



## *Men of Saint Joseph International*

*December 2020 – Volume 14*

*It has been a while since I have sent a newsletter to you. Now is a good time to once again begin a new invigorated, enthusiastic letter to all men in MOSJI. Rome has just released the news that this year, beginning December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021, is the Year of St. Joseph. I believe we will have a year of grace with opportunities to grow closer to the Lord and grow in numbers as well.*

*Because of Covid-19 our growth has just about stopped. Many groups are meeting virtually and stopped using the movie to recruit other men. Now that we have a vaccine I expect we will begin to have in-person meetings at some point. With all the lockdowns men will be looking to get out and be with other men. In the next few months let us be praying for this grace.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the diocesan MOSJI team for the Providence diocese. Fr. Frank Santilli, our pastor of St. Philip Church in Greenville, RI is our chaplain, John Olobri is the vice president, Lucien Laporte and Steve Nolan are office holders with myself as president. Presently we have thirty-five parishes and ten are underway to be members of MOSJI in our diocese of Providence. We also take responsibility for several other parishes throughout the U.S. This same team has advised me on interested groups. Andryz Lewek of Poland and I have agreed to take concern for all international groups. My hope is that in the near future other leaders in our countries will be added to our international team.*

*If you need any help please email me at [donturbitt@gmail.com](mailto:donturbitt@gmail.com) . In future months I hope to have short write-ups from around the world. This month John Olobri and Steve Nolan have written some helpful thoughts.*

*Please pray for me as I will be praying for you.*

*In Christ, Don Turbitt*

IMPORTANT NOTE

*All country leaders:*

*Representing the Men of St. Joseph International, I am writing a letter to Pope Francis in order to request approval for MOSJI. My goal is to receive Rome's acceptance as an International Association within the Catholic Church. It is important that as many bishops as possible sign on to the letter. If you have a good relationship with your bishop and you think he would agree to sign on, I will send you a copy of the letter in order for your bishop to sign.*

*Presently, already signed on is the Archbishop of Latvia, the Archbishop of Poland and, expectantly, my diocesan bishop. At this point I am asking you as leaders to speak to your bishops and ask them to sign this letter which will be forwarded to Rome.*

*Please email me at: [donturbitt@gmail.com](mailto:donturbitt@gmail.com).*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## **Chapter development.**

In the spring of 2019 we began a project with the goal of establishing a Men of St Joseph chapters in every parish in Rhode Island and to begin developing chapters in parishes in southern Massachutees.

The first step in the process was to put together teams of three men each to meet with pasters to present who we are and what we do. Eighteen volunteered to do this very soon after we announced the project. This was a sign to us the it was in God's favor. We then went to work in developing PowerPoint presentations, handout material and an email campaign to use with pastors and to use on orientation meetings with the men of the parishes. The final preparation step was to train the chapter development teams and assign the first phase of target parishes to present the Men of St Joseph to. The plan was well received by the teams and the development began. At the start we had chapters in 24 of the 139 parishes on our list. The program got off to a slow start but by the summer time it picked up momentum. By late fall we grew 35 active chapters and 10 more in various stages of development thanks to the dedicated work of the development teams.

Next came the pandemic which brought a screeching halt to the development meetings with pastors and men of their parishes but not with our enthusiasm. We are still communication with pasters by phone and email so that we can hit the ground running when the pandemic is behind us.

Please put the MOSJI chapter development program on you prayer list. We need the power of prayer to do this work with spiritual protection. The Catholic church needs spiritually strong active Catholic men to do battle for our faith and our teams are ready to move out.

God bless,

John Olobri



EVANGELIZATION...it can be a daunting task in our culture today. Do you feel called to share the joy of your faith? Maybe you've been blessed with a certain close relationship with God that you know you should pass onto others.....but just don't know how to do it...or feel ineffective or unprepared? We are all indeed called to this numerous times in scripture and repeatedly by our Pope. Below is a simple and proven recipe to share the message of your faith that you may want to consider working into your "faith repertoire". There is nothing more effective than a live example of someone with an actual living, breathing, vibrant personal relationship with God.

### **Recipe for creating your own 3 minute testimony**

- Step 1- Explain what your life was like before Christ became a part of it.
- Step 2- Explain specifically how you came to know Christ and make Him part of your life.
- Step 3- Explain how your life has changed since having Christ in your life.

### **DO's and DON'Ts**

- **DO's**
  - Keep it 3 minutes or under
  - Be concerned about the other person
  - Have a clear, well thought out message
  - Be honest
  - Be relaxed
  - Speak from your heart
- **DON'Ts**
  - Ramble on and on
  - Promote yourself above the other person
  - Be all over the road

2020 has been crazy, off the rails, etc. and 2021 looks likely to be a time of great upheaval. Perhaps this upheaval is just the catalyst you can use to open the door to share the Gospel effectively. I urge you to write down your 3 minute testimony and practice it. You NEED to practice it in order to be effective at those critical moments. Share it with joy and keep it short (3 minutes) and to the point.

Good luck and God bless.

Steve Nolan

## **Vatican City, Dec 8, 2020 / 04:08 am MT (CNA).- Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph**

Tuesday in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021, according to a decree authorized by the pope.

The decree said that Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

It added that the pope had granted special indulgences to mark the year.

The Dec. 8 decree was issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary, the dicastery of the Roman Curia that oversees indulgences, and signed by the Major Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, and the Regent, Msgr. Krzysztof Nykiel.

In addition to the decree, Francis issued an apostolic letter Tuesday dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

The pope explained in the letter, entitled *Patris corde* ("With a father's heart") and dated Dec. 8, that he wanted to share some "personal reflections" on the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic," he said, noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," he wrote. "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph patron of the Universal Church on Dec. 8, 1870, in the decree *Quemadmodum Deus*.

In its decree Tuesday, the Apostolic Penitentiary said that, "to reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph's patronage in the Church," it would grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19, the saint's solemnity, and May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Other notable days for the plenary indulgence are the Feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 29 and St. Joseph's Sunday in the Byzantine tradition, as well as the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the saint in the Latin tradition.

The decree said: "In the current context of health emergency, the gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who, with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment keeps them, recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of their life."

The three conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, the reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the pope's intentions.

>> In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis reflected on the fatherly qualities of St. Joseph, describing him as beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, and "creatively courageous." He also underlined that he was a working father.

>> The pope referred to the saint as "a father in the shadows," citing the novel "The Shadow of the Father," published by the Polish author Jan Dobraczyński in 1977.

>> He said that Dobraczyński, who was declared Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1993 for protecting Jewish children in Warsaw in World War II, "uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph."

"In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way," the pope wrote.

Francis said that the contemporary world required examples of true fatherhood.

"Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs," he wrote.

"It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

"Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfillment if it stops

at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration.”

He continued: “When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child’s freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care.”

The pope added: “In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who ‘makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust’ (Matthew 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.”

### **Pray to St Joseph**

O Blessed Joseph,  
faithful guardian of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,  
protector of the Mother of our Lord,  
we choose you this day  
to be our patron and advocate.  
As Men of St. Joseph, we humbly ask you  
to receive us as your cause,  
leading us to Jesus for instruction in doubt,  
comfort in affliction, strength in times of testing.  
Obtain for us, and for all, the knowledge  
and love of the Heart of Jesus Christ.  
May men of good faith turn to you, Joseph.  
May you defend and protect us and our families  
as we grow more like Jesus by your example,  
now, and all the days of our lives.

Amen

*We wish you all a blessed Christmas*

