

MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH INTERNATIONAL



72 hours to a resurrected life

Ezekiel 34:23-24

"Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord God, the God of Israel"

March 2021

Volume 17

FOUNDER'S NOTES

It is stated in the by-laws that MOSJI is open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12 and other places in Scripture point out the importance of using these gifts. Many men have never been exposed to the charismatic renewal so they may not have ever seen the gifts used in a gathering of Catholic men. My hope is that the leadership of each group finds a place to experience the gifts firsthand so they can use them in their men's meetings.

One of the steps in the 72-Hour Plan is to attend an annual MOSJI retreat. This is a perfect setting to showcase the spiritual gifts, give a teaching, then pray with each man for the release of the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit and the gifts. When the pandemic is over, we should be laying hands on each other and expecting physical, emotional, and spiritual healings. In this special year of St. Joseph, we should also be expecting God to pour out His power with signs and wonders upon us.

In 1968 my wife, Pat, was told that she had MS (multiple sclerosis). Because of the shocking and painful news, I "made a bargain with God that if He would heal my wife, I would attend Mass every day for a year." Within that year Pat miraculously was healed of MS, an incurable disease. Fifty-two years later I am still going to daily Mass and I totally believe in the gift of healing and all the other gifts of the Holy Spirit.

It is wonderful to give a person a word of knowledge or a prophesy that moves his heart. Praying in the gift of tongues gives peace to our heart. St. Paul says, "It builds you up." Let us remember that these are "gifts" of the Holy Spirit and not a curse. Finally, if you are not using the gifts, I encourage you to get to a place where you can learn and grow in the gifts, then bring them back to your men's group.

Don Turbitt

Patris Corde: With A Father's Heart
**Our Chaplain's Reflections on the Apostolic Letter of
Pope Francis**
Very Reverend Francis C. Santilli

With a FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph."

With those tender words Pope Francis begins his Apostolic Letter proclaiming a holy year in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Latin title of the pope's letter is *Patris Corde*, a father's heart.

At the conclusion of his letter, the Holy Father writes that *the aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.*

What a great encouragement to each and every one of us, members of *Men of Saint Joseph International*, to not only read our Holy Father's reflection but to implement the aim of his letter. And I could think of no better time to do this reflecting and nurturing than this Holy Season of Lent.

Allow me a moment to present a brief overlook to the pope's letter that I hope will serve as an incentive for you to obtain a copy of the letter and read it and study it and allow its message to seep into your soul this Lent. Pope Francis divides the letter into 7 parts, each part a reflection on the life and example of Saint Joseph: (1) a beloved father; (2) a tender and loving father; (3) an obedient father; (4) an accepting father; (5) a creatively courageous father; (6) a working father; (7) a father in the shadows.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you an apocryphal story that has become part of the Church's tradition about Saint Joseph. One day, he and the child Jesus were working together in the carpentry shop of Nazareth. A delivery of wood arrived, and the request was made to make the wood into a table; Joseph observed to Jesus: *Son, this table will be used by a great Rabbi some day and he will gather his closest disciples around it to celebrate an extraordinary meal. This is a happy task for us to make this table.*

Sometime later, Roman soldiers delivered to wooden planks and asked that they be made into a cross to be used for crucifixions. Joseph observed to Jesus, *this is an unhappy task, my son, because one day this cross will be used to crucify an innocent man whose death will mean life for the world.*

I close by borrowing the words of a prayer composed by Pope Francis, addressed to our Holy Patron, Saint Joseph: *Show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen. Saint Joseph, pray for us!*

MOSJI Updates

Some options for your chapter meetings when you finish Signposts

Here are two books that some groups have used for chapter meetings. Both have discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

The first one is "What is This Thing Called Faith" by Fr. Hugh Duffy

Here is a link to the book on his website.

<http://www.fatherduffy.com/what-is-this-thing-called-faith/>

The second one is "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly

There is a book and study guide.

Here are the links to each.

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/rediscover-jesus/RJES-20-MM-ENG.html>

<https://files.dynamiccatholic.com/home/pdfs/study+guides/Rediscover+Jesus+-+Study+Guide.pdf>

Another resource is a booklet that you will find on our MOSJI website called the Pilgrims Guide. It has 11 lessons with discussion questions.

https://mosji.org/pdfs/pilgrims_guide.pdf

You can also go to the resources tab on our MOSJI website and find other options as well.

Virtual meetings

- If there are chapters that would like to use the MOSJI Zoom account that have not already reserved a time, there are time slots available on Mondays after March 15th and Tuesdays and Fridays.

Chapter News

- As part of our participation in the Year of St. Joseph, men from MOSJI groups across the diocese will be saying the rosary monthly outside of Planned Parenthood located at 175 Broad Street in Providence. We will meet there on the **3rd Saturday of every month at ~8:45 AM**. The next gatherings will be Saturday March 20...and then April 17, etc. There is street parking on the parking lot side of Planned Parenthood. Plan on spending about 60-90 minutes and please bring others if you can show our solidarity...they don't have to be MOSJI members. Some people will be going to mass beforehand and then heading to Planned Parenthood. There is an 8:00 AM mass at St. Pius located at 240 Eaton Street in Providence. This act courageously embraces the virtue of St. Joseph as **protector of the family**. Hope to see you there.

- St Augustine's chapter in Providence will be working with the parish Knights of Columbus council to bring in chaplains from URI, Fr. Carl Fiset, and one from Providence College to speak to the men of the parish about St Joseph on May 1st, the feast of St Joseph the worker. It will be promoted to get more men of the parish, especially young men, involved with both organizations.
- St Joan of Arc chapter in Cumberland is preparing to make the consecration to St Joseph in March. The men will be blessed at Mass by the pastor of the parish.
- SS Rose & Clement chapter will be participating in a Consecration to St Joseph 6-week program Wednesday evenings from February 17 to March 24 at 7 PM at the Cathedral in Providence. It is open to all.
- Holy Apostles chapter continues with the 33-day consecration to St. Joseph. They will make the consecration March 19th on the Feast of St. Joseph.

A Simple Means to Building Stronger Bonds in your Chapter

One of the members of the Men of St Joseph presented an idea to me about a year ago that we adopted. I want to share it with you. The idea was to develop a visual reminder to get the men in the group to pray daily for other members of the group and their families. The method he proposed is simple and highly effective. He went to a local shrine and purchased a group of St Joseph medals that were a little larger in size than a quarter. Each member of the chapter had their initials, or first names engraved on one of the medals. At the next chapter meeting we all brought our medal back and placed them on a table in the meeting room. At the end of the meeting each man took a medal home with them, making sure it was not his own. For the next month we each made a commitment to pray for that person and his family daily until the next meeting when we exchanged medals again and kept the prayer process going. It is a simple process but effective in reminding us to pray for each other. It also adds an additional opportunity to pray for the person during the day if you carry that medal with you. In addition to praying daily for each other it has drawn us closer together as men.

This easy and effective prayer reminder technique has now spread to three chapters that I know of. I encourage you to consider using this technique or developing your own. You can use medals, tickets, or cards with names on them etc.

John Olobri

Gospel Reading for March 10, 2021

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

[Mt 5:17-19](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets.
I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away,
not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter
will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments
and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven.
But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments
will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Events and Dates

March 31, 2021 Chapter Leaders virtual meeting 7:00PM via Zoom
April 22, 2021 Chapter development team meeting 7:00PM
May 20, 2021 Chapter development team meeting 7:00PM
June 30, 2021 Chapter Leaders meeting 7:00PM
August 19, 2021 Chapter development team meeting 7:00PM
September 29, 2021 Chapter Leaders meeting 7:00PM
October 13–17, 2021 International Men’s Conference, Rome Italy

Prayer Requests

The Men of St Joseph International is concerned for all our members, their families, and friends. We strongly believe in the power of prayer and have set up a team of Prayer Warriors that have committed time each day to pray for the needs presented to them in your petitions sent through this web portal. Click on the Prayer Warrior link on the home page, entitled "**Send Your Petition to Our Prayer Warriors**", to detail and submit your request. Please be as clear and succinct as possible and **include, at least, the first name of the person** you are requesting prayers for.

John 15:7 - If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you.

Make Time for St. Joseph

Wednesday Dedication to St. Joseph

Holy Mother Church in Her liturgical tradition has attributed different days of the week as particular focal points for reflection. Holy Mother Church has given **Wednesday**, “the day the week turns on” to St. Joseph. This means that the middle of the week is the perfect time to reflect on, be grateful for, and intercede on behalf of holy fatherhood, both spiritual and biological. Why not consider going to weekday Mass on Wednesdays

March: This is the Month of St. Joseph

The Church has assigned a special emphasis to each month of the calendar year. The month of March is known as the Month of St. Joseph and is marked by the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 19th. Consider going to Mass as a group with your chapter brothers on the 19th and treat yourselves with the traditional Zeppole that day.



A prayer to St Joseph believed to be over 1900 years old

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.



Hi men,

So what's your cross and what's on it? Maybe broken dreams, lives cut short, deep pain from those closest to you? Our personal crosses come in all sorts of forms and each one of them is uniquely our own.

I think our biggest challenge is not necessarily to bear them, but maybe even more so to accept them...to willingly accept them. Now that can be tough!

Lent is the time when the weight of Jesus' cross is most apparent to us. It must be very pleasing to Jesus when He sees us embrace our cross with and through Him. Not lukewarm and without hesitancy...the polar opposite of what He experienced with the Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Maybe this is the year to start looking at our crosses in a different light.

God bless,

Steve Nolan

**If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
Luke 9:23**



MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Taking Up Our Cross

Just as our Lord did, we must go to heaven by way of Calvary. Saint Matthew emphasizes the "taking up" of our cross: this means the will is in it. We must bend down and take it up, as our Lord did, not just accept it passively. And it has to be our own cross too, not someone else's: carrying our own cross is how we work out the task planned for us by the Father.

So our cross is given us, and we must take it as we find it, not pick and choose the one we want, an oak one or a teak one. Other people's crosses often look more attractive, but the one the Father gives us is our very own. Our Lord in the Gospels is always talking about his *hour*, his crucifixion; he cannot be separated from it, for his Father wills it. We are disciples of a crucified Master, and so we have to be crucified with him. Our cross is usually given to us in installments, weighing differently at different times; it is made up of small cells, little fatigues and worries and things that go wrong. We have to try to put them together so that one day they will add up to a glorious cross, shaped like Christ's. We cannot see the proper shape yet, partly because we are too close; in our self-pity we see each little bit magnified and distorted, and anyhow our loving Father will not let us see it as a whole yet, we would think it too big and heavy, and so lose courage. But we can carry our little crosses, little parts of the cross, and trust that in doing so we are growing like our Master, that one day we shall resemble him: glorified as he is in heaven, with his cross and his wounds glorified too. *And come after me*, our Lord says, because he never

asks us to suffer what he has not suffered; he always goes before, we have only to follow him.

FATHER BONAVENTURE PERQUIN, O.P.

Father Perquin († 1970) was a Dominican priest, theologian, and spiritual writer.

Catholic Speaker Coming Virtually on March 17th

Mike Vendituoli and Keith Kline have arranged a virtual presentation from an accomplished Catholic speaker and evangelist.

In honor of the Year of Saint Joseph and as a way to celebrate Saint Joseph., Mike has arranged for John Edwards, founder and executive director of Pew Ministries, to speak to us virtually on Wednesday night, March 17, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

John is a Catholic speaker and evangelist that has spoken in Canada and across the United States and has been featured on Catholic media such as the RISE Membership, Pints with Aquinas, The Catholic Talk Show, The Jon Leonetti Show, Hard as Nails, The Art of Catholic, and EWTN's The Catholic Cafe. John is the host of the Just A Guy in the Pew Podcast and the author of The Narrow Road, a monthly spiritual guide for men coming out in March 2021. He is also the cofounder of Virtual Catholic Conference LLC. His greatest blessing is being the husband to Angela and the father to Jacob, Allison, and Katelyn. He and his family live in Memphis, TN.

Here is the link for the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88925203954>

You can watch his conversion story and his Podcast his website www.justaguyinthepew.com

Please RSVP to Mike at mikevendi1@gmail.com

Contact Us

For more information on starting, developing, or running a chapter in your parish contact one of our Service Team members.

Don Turbitt - donturbitt@gmail.com

John Olobri - jolobri2@verizon.net

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We would like to include information, experiences, and events that your chapter is involved with in our monthly newsletters.

Please email them to John Olobri at jolobri2@verizon.net

Visit our website www.mosji.org

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