



இறையரசு மலர்
"அவர் உங்களுக்குச்
சொல்வதெல்லாம் செய்யுங்கள் யாவாள்" 2:5

DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER VELLORE

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Year of St Joseph

(08 December 2020 - 08 December 2021)

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Year of Amoris Laetitia Family

(19 March 2021- 26 June 2022)



Diocesan News Letter

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March 2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters

This year month of March reminds us two different events:

1. the joyful event of the feast of St. Joseph on 19; 2. the sad event of the first year death anniversary of our beloved late bishop Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju, SDB., on 21.

Pope Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph as the patron and protector of the Universal Church in 1870. Having died in the “arms of Jesus and Mary” according to Catholic tradition, he is considered the model of the pious believer who receives grace at the moment of death, in other words, the patron of a happy death.

Saint Joseph is the patron saint of a number of cities, regions and countries, among them the Americas, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Indonesia, Mexico, Korea, Peru, the Philippines, Vietnam, and India as well as of families, fathers, expectant mothers (pregnant women), explorers, pilgrims, religious, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general. St. Joseph is known for three important virtues: 1. Man of God Fearing; 2. Man of righteousness; 3. Man of action.

1. Man of God fearing: “to fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” All those who fear the Lord will reap the following fruits: they will enjoy Lord’s glory and exultation; gladness and crown of rejoicing; their hearts will be delighted; they will have long life and have happy end and blessed death; they will have peace and perfect health; their house will be filled with desirable goods (Sir 1:11-20)



St. Joseph had fear of God and that's why he was able to obey the word of God to accept Mary who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit as his wife and ready to foster Jesus as his son. This is possible only by fear of God and not by any human power. That fear of God made him to be the crown of rejoicing and gladness in the Catholic Church.

2. Man of righteousness: righteousness means be a just and faithful human being. The book of Proverbs say, “accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered; and if you run you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong,.... For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day (Prov 4:10-18)

St. Joseph was a man of fidelity that led him to be faithful to God's words and his family with Mary and Jesus. Since he was a man of just he didn't want to expose Mary who was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit to public disgrace (Mt 1:18, 19)



3. Man of action: it means to be a man of hard working and not a lazy one who is a burden for himself and to the society. “go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior” (Prov 6:6-11)

St. Joseph as a carpenter was known for his hardworking and worked for the sustenance of his family. He brought up his son Jesus as a son of carpenter “Is not this the carpenter’s son? (Mt 13:55)

Following the footsteps of St. Joseph let us in this season of Lent follow his life and aforesaid three virtues. Let us fear the Lord so that we may gain the wisdom to discern what is good and evil and bring gladness and crown of rejoicing by doing good to others; let us be faithful in our call and mission and do justice to others; let us be active in our ministry and try to reach out the unreachable poor, marginalized and downtrodden.

In our diocese there are 6 parishes having St. Joseph as their patron saint namely 1. C. Nammiandal, 2. Koviloor, 3. Mosavadi, 4. Narasingapuram, 5. Sathuvacharry, 6. Shenpakkam and lot more religious institutions. Let us keep these parishes and religious institutions in our



prayers and if possible visit these parishes as pilgrimage in this year of St. Joseph. We wish all these parish priests and the parishioners all Gods' blessings.

As we are going to commemorate the first year death anniversary of our beloved late bishop Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju, SDB., let us remember him in our daily prayers and pray for the repose of his soul. He was a good pastor, charismatic leader, promising educator, and known for his friendly nature and brotherly care and concern. Let him enjoy the heavenly bliss and intercede for our diocese.

This year we are going to have the diocesan Way of the Cross on 5th Sunday 21 March at Madha Hill, Chetpet at 2:30 pm. I ask all the parish priests and religious not to have any other program in your respective parishes / institutions and bring all your parishioners and people for this diocesan event. I appreciate your kind cooperation. It is also the actual day of the death of our Bishop. Let us come together as one flock to offer the way of the Cross and the mass for the repose of his soul.

On Wednesday, 31 of this month we are going to have **Chrism Mass** in our Assumption Cathedral. This is the day of priesthood, the day that all our priests are going to renew their priestly promise. Let us pray for all our priests so that they will be faithful to their consecrated life and serve the Lord and the people with full of dedication and commitment.



I take this opportunity to appreciate and thank all our priests and religious for their laudable priestly ministry to our people and wish them all a **HAPPY PRIESTHOOD DAY.**

God bless,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Very Rev. Msgr. I. John Robert

Diocesan Administrator

